METRO / A23

Mother Lily says Lapid 'miscast' as Makati mayor, supports Binay

WORLD / A25

British media slams 'Dumb Dubya' over royal blooper

NEWS / A2

Slugfest for No. 1: Loren says Villar 'ST' not as important as honesty

MOTORING / B2-1

14 lessons from driving Toyota's Prius

5 dead, 35 wounded in Tacurong bombing

GENERAL SAN TOS CITY—A POWERFUL EXplosion ripped through a crowded tricycle terminal near a market in Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat at 4:55 p.m. yesterday, leaving at least five people dead and 35 wounded, police reported.

Insp. Benjamin de los Santos, deputy police chief of Tacurong, said the blast occurred at the corner of Rizal Ave and Magsaysay Street.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, May 9, 2007 44 Pages / Vol. 22 / No. 138 P18 www.inquirer.net

DEMOCRACY WALL

ALL OF THEM LOOKSOME: Superstar's Pyrobo, Skarr and Basilisa are way up there on the Cloisa the King Dioram in Brownsmakers, Quezon City. But where are the other assembly political parties' platforms? That is, if they have any

Terms of endearment mark GO's final push

By Fe Zamora

SIX "ENDEARING" CANDIDATE, SIX informative endorsers and a smart campaign plan based on a set of dos and don'ts implemented by determined campaigners—all these are coming into play as Genuine Opposition (GO) candidates make their final push before D-Day.

ELEKSYON 2007

"Endorsement," according to GO campaign manager Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, is how a voter feels after "knowing" the candidate personally, seeing him on television or hearing him on the radio.

A voter who finds the candidate "endearing" will express this positive feeling on the ballot—or what is known as "conversion."

Since the start of the campaign period in February, GO candidates—individually or in groups—have been introducing themselves to voters on the streets, in markets, in schools.

"They've been stumping across the

TURN TO A2

Army tied to abduction

Plates on AUV used to seize Burgos traced to 56th IB

By TJ Burgonio

THE LICENSE PLATES ON the maroon Asian utility vehicle (AUV) used in the April 28 abduction of Jonas Joseph Burgos, son of the late newspaper publisher and press freedom icon Jose "Joe" Burgos Jr., have been traced to an impounded vehicle parked at an Army camp in Bulacan since June last year.

The Burgos family suspects the military was involved in the kidnapping, but officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have denied the accusations.

Register clerk Leo Cervantes director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Luzon, said yesterday that a locally assembled jeep with Plate No. TAB 194 had been seized by a team from the DENR and the Philippine Army.

The vehicle was believed to have been used to haul illegally cut logs in Nueva Ecija and Aurora. Its owner, Reyes Medina, was subsequently charged with il-

STORY A10

SEEING STARS: Sen. Nikki Pangilinan embraces Shamie Corona, and daughters Frankie (right) and Mel take in the stage at the Batuk Imelda Cultural Center to the delight of the audience of more than 4,000 filled to a fund-raising campaign, the celebrity couple toured northern Luzon by bus last week with Pangilinan's brother-in-law Gary Valenciano.

Palace execs, Mike A's sis, other VIPs in party-list groups

By TJ Burgonio, Nikko Dizon and Fe Zamora

A MILITANT PARTY-LIST GROUP IS questioning the credentials of the children of an administration senator and a Cabinet secretary, among many others, who are being fielded by some party-list groups as their nominees in the House of Representatives.

Using the published list of groups, their nominees and other information, Sandatan national president Wilson Fortaleza identified some of the relatives of government officials as follows:

- Kristine Santiago III, son of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago. He is the No. 1 nominee of the Alliance of Rural Concerns (ARC), which represents the marginalized sector of agrarian reform beneficiaries.
- Hamed P. Pangkalinawan, son of Agriculture Secretary Nasser Pangandaman. He is the first nominee of Novelty Entrepreneurship Livelihood for Food Se-

MAJOR EXPOSE A8

Poll watchdogs learn from Garci: Focus on canvass

By Veli Contreras

IT'S TIME FOR CANVASSING, ETHYL!

That's the lesson of "Hello Garci," in which the independent poll watchers mobilizing en guard against fraud in the May 14 elections.

In the past, watchers tended to focus more on the conduct of elections—on the counting at the precinct level and on the tampering of the election returns (ERs), said Carlos Welches, one of the

POLL A9

Ex-AFP brass bare 'Oplan Mercury Rising'

By Marinel Bordadora and Tony S. Bergonia

A NEW POLL PARTY-BOOK COALITION composed of retired military brass, officers and enlisted men yesterday disclosed an alleged flash plot in their May 14 elections, with the supposed objective of ensuring an overall good showing by the administration's senatorial candidates.

Quoting a purported intelligence report on "Oplan Mercury Rising," the coalition chair Lydia Ilardi Bueno said top election officers in four regions in the Visayas and Mindanao and in 12 provinces across the country had specifically been ordered to make sure that three Team Unity (TU) candidates would bag the top three slots in those areas.

Retired Commodore Jamael Aguiri, one of the convenors of Batasan Buo, named the candidates as Michael Defensor, Jose Miguel Zubiri and Prospero Pichay.

Six other convenors are retired Gen. Ramon Documento, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Northern Luzon Command under the Arroyo administration; retired Philippine National Police Director General Reynaldo Santiaguel, PNP chief under the Ramos administration, and retired Navy Capt. Salvador Parel, a leader of Forum.

Among those now supposedly pressured by Team Unity candidates in Eastern Samar, the province of Gov. Ben Evardone, the TU media director, Aguiri said at a news conference.

EX-AFPS A12

Binay focuses counterattack on Ombudsman

By Veli Contreras and Michelle V. Reyes

STILL SMARTING OVER BALAGTASISMOS directed at Vice Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday directed his counterattack at the Office of the Ombudsman, the agency that ordered him suspended for 90 days based on a 5-month-old complaint about which he was not formally informed.

In the first public hearing on his case, Binay wondered why the Ombudsman had sought his "preventive suspension" based on a complaint lodged by one of his rival political foes in December 2006—without first giving him a copy of

BINAY A10

Mike A gets doctors' OK to go back to work

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

NOW, SURE WILL NO LONGER HAVE A REASON to be depressed.

Yesterday Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo finally got a clean bill of health after passing his first round of checkups following a critical spell.

MIKE A A10/FRONT PAGE

Top AFP officers telling soldiers to back TU, Palparan party-list

CUMBAYO CITY—RANKING military officials in Mindanao are said to be visiting soldiers in various camps, telling them to vote for the administration's Team Unity (TU) slate as well as party-list groups identified with the government, including that of retired Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr.

Among those officials is army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, according to a military source who declined to be named for security reasons. "They have been visiting camps on their own initiative, to advise soldiers to vote for TU and party-list groups allied with the government. This is a separate effort that is not directed by the higher command," he said.

Originally, the campaign was only intended to drop visitors to left-leaning party-list groups, and the source, who holds a vital position in the military based in Mindanao.

"But as election day nears, and probably because some soldiers kept on asking whom to vote for among the senatorial candidates, TU was endorsed," he said.

During the local elections voting last week in Sulu, Davao Oriental, soldiers told the Inquirer they had been instructed to vote for TU candidates and party-list groups supportive of the Arroyo administration.

They said that among the party-list groups endorsed to them were Bind and Uni-Med.

But Army spokesperson Maj. Ernesto Torres told the Inquirer that the military was not campaigning for TU.

"There is no such effort. What we are doing is online kung sino ang sasama sa aming mga sundalo dapat ay should value our votes, that the

TOP AFP A10

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with similar occurrences. — PAGASA-DOST

Metro Manila	Cloudy with showers	Cotabato	Cloudy with showers
Baguio	Cloudy with showers	Davao	Cloudy with showers
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with showers	Cebu	Cloudy with showers
Legaspi	Cloudy with showers	Tacloban	Cloudy with showers
Puerto Princesa	Cloudy with showers	Iloilo	Cloudy with showers
Tagaytay	Cloudy with showers	Dumaguete	Cloudy with showers
Laoag	Cloudy with showers	Zamboanga	Cloudy with showers
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with showers	Surigao	Cloudy with showers

Manny-Loren slugfest for No. 1

PARTY-LIST CARAVAN

Supporters of the Bayan party-list take their children and posters in yesterday's campaign rally at the Quirino Grandstand following a big caravan through the streets of Metro Manila. — MIKE ALQUINTO

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BATTLE FOR FIRST place in the senatorial race has become so heated that the near and real rivals—Genuine Opposition candidates Loren Legarda and Senate President Manuel Villar—are openly trading barbs and possibly even spreading black propaganda against each other.

VILLAR

LEGARDA

In the "Iang Tanong" forum of the GMA television network last Sunday, Legarda said bluntly more than once that "Villar is a good worker and perseverant"—which is the campaign slogan of Villar—was more important in choosing leaders.

At the Kapihan sa Senado press forum, Villar shot back: "Honesty is the is a given, you have to be honest to continue in [the] public service. If you have to prove your honesty, you should not be a public official in the first place."

Legarda, who had a falsely bought vacation condominium in 2004, has openly declared her desire to be the top vote-getter in this year's election exercise, with the slogan "Loren Legarda: Number One Sa Senado."

And even though several surveys have shown him to have a lock on one of the top three slots, Villar is joining up his campaign to ensure his first-ma first.

Wanting to be best

"Being No. 1 is not important. But in everything you do, you always want to be the best. In any race you run, you want to win the gold medal. In golf, you want to be a champion; if you take an examination, you want to be top, and if you run for senator, [a] seat is the top," said Villar.

But he claimed not to be obsessed with being No. 1, being in the Magic 12 would be enough, he said.

Villar said the force reality for the opposition in this year's election may have something to do with the 2010 presidential elections.

Junking time

Meanwhile, it's now every man for himself in the campaign homestretch as senatorial candidates try to woo local government officials, sometimes to the extent of junking some of their own teams.

According to Team Unity senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo, the administration bets have gone their separate ways in the last week before the elections, making solitary entries to boost their respective candidacies.

He said their campaign has been focusing on getting the government machinery, even those from the opposition, to include their names in the sample ballots to be distributed on Election Day.

Arroyo said that junking was a common practice in Philippine elections.

"Sometimes, [it's] taking some of my friends in the opposition. That's normal because it will add to your vote," he said.

Campaign takes toll on Sharon, kids

By Vincent Cabreza and Cristina Arradaza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—(UPDATE, ACTEDIS MD) TV host Sharon Cuneta has billed it as the start of her husband's last campaign sortie through Northern Luzon, prompting endearment fans. Francis Pangilinan is set on yesterday that he might not run as re-lapse in his campaign for senator.

Pangilinan earlier made a strong pitch for independence in charge "traditional politics" but if made to repeat the remark, "I don't bet," he said.

Cuneta and daughters Kiel, who's almost 16 and Frankie, who turns 7 in December, joined a family-run campaign alongside families in Ilocos singer Gary Valenciano, as well as actor Ramon Bobby Jr.

The first leg began in Laoag City and culminated here on Monday.

Pangilinan's "It Ito" caravan arrived here on the late hour of 11 p.m. but crowds here, nonetheless, responded with a scheduled campaign rooster that should have started at 7 p.m.

Tarak Kitaynons, an evangelical support group helping the caravan, said Pangilinan's caravan was delayed because of the way to Baguio, people crowded the streets for eighteen-O'Clocks.

Over 500 residents stayed at Burnham Park to wait for Cuneta and to watch her perform. Her short concert ended after midnight.

But Cuneta and Mel suffered from a cold yesterday morning, Pangilinan said.

"Somebody asked me, after 80 plus days of campaigning, do I think I made the right decision when I ran as an independent? I said yes. Would I do it all over again if I had to? I'd rather not," he said.

But he said running an independent campaign was meant to inspire more people to stand by their convictions.

According to Pangilinan, members of the administration are now in the opposition and a few members of the opposition are now in the administration.

He decided "not to add to the confusion" generated by the loyalty switching.

In the end, everyone would campaign alone, he said.

His independent campaign had effected his poll rankings, he noted, when he slipped from the top spot to fifth in the latest surveys.

NPA OR LABOR LEADER

AFP nabs slay suspect in Casiño campaign party

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE MILITARY ON TUESday filed murder charges against Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño for the alleged ambush-slay of two policemen who were escorting an alleged New People's Army member and murder suspect in Ormoc City on Monday night.

The suspect, Nicanor Borja, was with Casiño, who was in the city for a campaign sortie, when he was arrested.

Lt. Col. Jose Dapor, 19th Infantry Battalion commander, said the charges were filed against Casiño at the Ormoc City Prosecutor's Office after he allegedly opposed Borja's arrest.

Ormoc police and 19th IB soldiers arrested the arrest warrant on Borja, 36, in the house of one Teodoro Barrera in Mahayag, Ormoc City, at around 6 p.m. on Monday. The warrant was issued on Dec. 4, 2006, by Regional Trial Court Judge Apolinario Bustos Jr.

Borja, a resident of Ormoc, was accused of involvement in the killing of Sgt. Godfredino Amalaran of the 19th IB who was gunned down on May 6, 2006, in the Kananga town public market, Dapor said.

Casiño, however, described Borja, the regional coordinator of the Bindigasan party-list group, as a victim of "political harassment."

Dapor claimed Borja was a member of the White Area Committee which organized "legal fronts" for the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The military brought Borja to the Militarilio Brigade headquarters in Camp Downes in Ormoc and later to the city police station.

Casiño said he questioned the arrest because the first two arrest warrants the military presented had the names "Enos Borja." Borja's nickname is Inday. It was the third arrest warrant he had for a night name.

Casiño's bodyguard, Ambon Carungay, was detained at the 19th IB Intelligence Section. The gun was later returned with four bullets missing, Casiño said. With Michael Lim Ubay and Jerome Aning

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Terror suspect is a candidate

A SUSPECTED AL-QAEDA-LINKED MILITANT said Monday he's running in next week's elections to help bolster peace and development in his small town, where he maintains contacts rendered that he's a secret support to guerrillas.

Ahmad Tarmo Hasim, a suspected member of a militant group of Islamic converts, said he's running to become one of eight councilors of remote Anda town in Bangasinan—a Catholic stronghold where security officials say his group once ran a terror training camp.

Police have recognized that Hasim belonged to a group called the Rajah Solaiman movement, which has been linked to militant groups like Abu Sayyaf in the southern Philippines and the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah.

Hasim says he tells villagers that he was wrongfully accused.

I'm still running – Robredo

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS' FIRST Division has declared Ate ineligible to hold public office because of a technicality question, but Naga Mayor Jesse Robredo is not giving up the fight.

"I am still running. I am not disqualified," Robredo said.

Comelec Commissioner Romeo Brawner said the decision which he wrote was not yet final.

"That decision was reviewed by the First Division. Anybody who is not satisfied with the decision may elevate it to the commission en banc as a motion for reconsideration," Brawner said in a phone interview.

The Comelec's decision could still be reversed by the Supreme Court for a final ruling.

Brawner added:

"That means the voters' denied Robredo a seat in the candidates' list. He can continue to campaign and his votes will be counted.

Robredo said he has already filed a motion for reconsideration with the Comelec.

He said the Comelec decision has "confused many people" because his rivals were already "spreading news that the Comelec has disqualified me."

His supporters and allies said the Comelec decision was an act of political harassment.

Robredo, a Liberal Party member, is running against administration candidate Jojo Villafuerte, a nephew of Sen. Luis Villafuerte who is a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Body of Pinoy killed in Iraq brought home

THE BODY OF THE FILIPINO WORKER killed in a rocket attack in Iraq's heavily fortified Green Zone on Tuesday finally arrived yesterday.

The remains of Nicolino Ablao, who was one of four casualties of a missile strike in the US-controlled zone, was airlifted by a US military plane from a mortuary in Baghdad to Kuwait, and then flown to Manila.

Ablao's body was released to his wife, Teresita, and two sons.

"I find it so hard to accept," said Teresita, who spoke mostly in Visayan.

She had last spoken with her husband by phone two days before the rocket attack.

Ablao's remains will first be transported to his native Tagbilaran, Bohol and then to his wife's hometown in the Zamboanga islands off Agusan del Norte.

Based on Ablao's documents traced by the Department of Foreign Affairs, the slain worker had entered Iraq illegally in February 2006, about two years after the Philippines enforced a ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq because of the war.

"His first stop was Kuwait where he stayed for three weeks, then he entered Baghdad. He changed employers twice first he was employed as a cook and then by a US company. His job description said he was a carpenter," said Evelyn Cotaspe Jr., the foreign undersecretary for migrant affairs. *Tarra Quismundo with Reuko Montecillo*

PHILIP MORRIS

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Corrections

IN THE MAY 4 issue, a photo caption at... Rhoeza Arcadio's column "Without Barring an Eyelash" on Page C3 of the Lifestyle section misstated the surname of the Metropolitan... of Manila. The director's name is Eric Alexander—not Moore.

THE JAMS CAPTION misspelled the surname of an executive director of First Pacific Co. The director's surname is Edward Tortorici—not Tor...

Readers may send their request for correction of factual errors in writing to the Corporate Affairs Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Amorsolo Street, Makati City, fax No. 897-47-54, e-mail address: dayday@pdi.com.ph.

16 RP workers back with tales of terror

By Tarra Quismundo

SEVERAL MORE FILIPINO WORKERS SEEN, trained from Nigeria arrived home yesterday with more tales of terror in the troubled west African nation.

Like the stories told by 25 of their compatriots who arrived yesterday, two of the survivors told media here at least 30 masked men wielding high-power firearms kicked down the doors of their staffhouse in the Bonny area, Akam pioneer place, and kidnapped 11 employees—eight Filipinos and three foreigners, including the project manager.

Two workers were reportedly left behind to process travel papers of their departure, the nature of Nigeria's troubled environment security and about 20 kilometers from their place. They are also expected to arrive soon, bringing to 45 the number of Filipino workers ordered repatriated by the government.

Workers Edmund Ramirez Jr. and Julio Villalmira said they were roused from deep between 1 and 2 a.m. on Thursday by the sound of gunshots, after which they were trapped in the confusion.

"I saw the people (abductors) going out... I saw the realities here... They pushed their cupboard with guns and immediately boarded three cars (their vehicle)," said Ramirez, a Cabanatuan City native.

Air plane guards were helpless because the rebels were further armed, he told the Inquirer in Filipino upon his return to Manila yesterday morning.

Villalmira, a safety officer at the power plant, said the attackers killed two guards and launched grenades into the air, causing more 200 employees of various nationalities who were sleeping in six separate quarters (Camps A to F) at the plantsite.

"We requested that are land soldiers [as our security] blocking forces outside, but there was no resources," said Villalmira.

Villalmira remembers that one of those kidnapped backcalled him on the radio at the first sound of gunfire outside their quarters. "She said, 'Sir, what's the situation?' I told him and the rest is day gut..."

At that time, Villalmira had no inkling of the terror that was soon to strike. "When I went out, there was nothing yet," he said in the vernacular.

"Then know where the rep officials were... They might have gotten information from the inside... They were after money. The Filipinos who were taken were the ones nearest to the exit," added Ramirez.

All the while, the adjacent staffhouse housing the camp's...

FOR THE RECORD

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For interested parties, please note the following activities that will be held at the Board Room, ASMA, AFP Camp Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.:

Pre-Bidding Conference	Deadline for Acceptance of Bids	Opening of Sealed Bids
May 17, 2007 10:00 a.m.	May 23, 2007 10:00 a.m.	May 23, 2007 10:15 a.m.

For inquiries on item 07, please call Police or Army at 912-0056.
For inquiries on item 02 to 06, please call Felicor Tanning at 911-8216 / 912-4724 / 912-3686.
For inquiries on other items, please call Lou or Darwin at 912-4718.

The Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) supports A TEACHER

We, the undersigned, representing over 3,000 schools, colleges and universities, declare our unconditional support for **A TEACHER** party-list in the forthcoming May 14 elections. **A TEACHER**, which stands for Advocacy for Teacher Empowerment through Action, Cooperation and Harmony towards Educational Reforms, is a national professional organization representing all educators and non-teaching school personnel in the Philippines.

We strongly endorse the legislative agenda of **A TEACHER**:

1. Advocate Education for Sustainable Development and help improve the quality of education
2. Bring to government and public attention the needs and concerns of teachers and non-teaching personnel in both public and private schools
3. Sponsor and support educational bills that provide for quality education, the professional development and welfare of teachers and non-teaching school personnel
4. Review existing educational laws and propose necessary amendments to ensure their relevance
5. Conduct research in aid of educational legislation and policy formulation
6. Advocate educational reforms and conduct various fora for the discussion of educational issues including teachers' welfare
7. Provide professional development programs for teachers and non-teaching personnel and skills trainings for the numerous unemployed licensed and unlicensed teachers to enhance their employment and livelihood opportunities
8. Provide government assistance to private schools in recognition of their complementary role with public education
9. Provide assistance to poor but deserving students, including children of teachers and non-teaching personnel

We enjoin all teachers, non-teaching school personnel, students, parents, alumni and other stakeholders to support **A TEACHER** for party-list.

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Comelec urged to revoke all gun permits of candidates

WITH LESS THAN A WEEK BEFORE the elections, the Commission on Elections should revoke all special gun permits given to candidates to avoid further poll-related violence.

Team Unity senatorial bet Prospero "Butch" Pichay made this proposal to prevent what he called "acts of savagery and violence that are not only tragic but will be a black mark on our history sheets."

The death toll in this year's elections has reached 91 as of May 1. The government appears to be helpless in curbing the violence which had been anticipated long before the campaign season started. An estimated 539 people died in politics-related violence in 2004.

The election violence has been blamed on the lax enforcement of rules against loose firearms and the government's tolerance of politicians maintaining private armies.

Pichay said he would voluntarily surrender to the Comelec his special permit exempting him from the public ban on firearms during the campaign period.

"I am appealing to my colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives to do the same thing. Let us set an example to others, to candidates.

He said he was advised by the police not to go with an entourage and travel up his security as the start of the campaign, but the administration candidate said he was now putting all his trust on the police for his security.

Pichay said the heightened poll-related killings should urge senators to take a united stand against violence.

Bill Zaldarriaga Jr.

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EXTERTON

Lakas-Kampi feud takes toll on kingmakers of Davao Norte

By Di Cabarrogan Jr.

THE WORSENING FEUD BETWEEN THE country's biggest political parties, Lakas and Kampi, has driven a wedge between Davao's kingmakers—Interior Sec. Angelo C. Reyes and his long-time ally and brother-in-law, presidential adviser for news government assistant Rodolfo Del Rosario.

Rodolfo's son, Davao del Norte dynamic "Stephen" Rodolfo, revealed that his family is planning to drop its support for Del Rosario's reelection bid and instead endorse Davao del Norte governor from 1998 to 2004) for reelection with Lakas's bitter rival, Kampi, the party of President Macapagal-Arroyo which has audaciously raided Lakas's ranks to boost its membership.

Stephen Rodolfo has met the adviser-elect of the battle for dominance between administration allies which was driven by Kampi's desire to build a power base in time for the 2010 elections.

"It has caused division not only in our family but also in politics," said Del Rosario referring to Kampi's strategy of pitting allies against allies in the local elections to achieve its goal of trumping Lakas.

Betrayal

Rodolfo feels doubly bad about Del Rosario's seeming betrayal considering that he himself was supposed to be the one passing for Davao del Norte's governor's seat this year after serving three terms in Congress.

Rodolfo claimed he withdrew from the race after learning of Del Rosario's ambitions to run for Congress. He pointed, specifically, my father, the ugly disintegration of all that we have worked so hard to build."

"I have my father and headed in his support to run," said Rodolfo.

Stephen Rodolfo claimed that Del Rosario's scheme to defeat had considered a trusted lieutenant and had groomed like his son was, had formed a Kampi slate to run close and all towns in District 2 of Davao del Norte that would battle head-on with Rodolfo's Lakas bets.

Both Stephen and Del Rosario are ex-chairs of Lakas in the province but the latter was absent during the proclamation rally where Del Rosario was represented only by his wife, Indira, sister of Antonio.

"Dr. Del Rosario] not only inserted a closely-knit family unity but also created an unnecessary political turbulence in what should have been a smooth flight for Lakas in the province," said Rodolfo.

After taking look on the family's long time ally, Rodolfo is reportedly planning to throw its support to incumbent governor Dominguez, a former Lakas member who was forced to go to the Genuine Opposition after Del Rosario declared to his bid for the post.

NPA holds Army sergeant prisoner

COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS SAID THEY ARE holding a recently captured officer as a prisoner of war and are investigating him for possible human rights violations while fighting government troops.

A New People's Army command operating in the southern Mindanao region identified the captive as Staff Sgt. Rolando Bulaybulay, a commander of an army outpost in Gesod town in Davao Oriental.

Bulaybulay has been involved in counterinsurgency operations for 17 years, they said.

"We have shelf [with] POW Sgt. Bulaybulay as the New People's Army has shown in numerous occasions of war crimes that is upholds its policy of humane and lenient treatment of prisoners of war," rebel spokesman Reed Agustin II said in a statement.

The rebels did not say when or how they captured Bulaybulay. A special investigating body was set up to determine any "possible war crimes and violations of human rights" that Bulaybulay may have committed in his long involvement in counterinsurgency operations, the rebels said.

There was no immediate military reaction to the rebel statement.

In 2004, the rebels captured two army officers during a raid in Cateel town Bay. They freed the two after five months of jungle captivity for humanitarian reasons.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) (REGION I – ANNOUNCES SANTIAGO ABARRIENTOS, Sabangan P. del MORALES, Bontoc A. TUAZON, Bontoc B. CALASTEVA, Agoo ESCOBAR, BALLESTEROS, Camiguin D. BUENAVENTURA, Nueva C. SALDERON, Jones Batanes) c. WALLACE, Ilocos B. BAGAMPONG, Aparri A. VILLAFLOR, Tuguegarao C. MORENO, Pinamalayan D. ANDRADE, Calapan A. TOLENTINO, Mt. Guiting-Guiting

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC) (REGION II – PAGUDPUD-BANGUED, ILOCOS NORTE, ADAMS, Bontoc/Sadanga, CALUMPIT, Tumauini/Ilagan, LUCBAN, Pinamalayan A. PINEDA, Pinamalayan C. BAROZA, Calapan C. TUAMANGIS, Calapan Governor's Drive, Puerto Princesa, Coron, CAMBAO-SAN DIONISIO, MORONG-ERMITA, BASTERRENCHE, Camarines D., FARRERAS, Aurora F. MALLARE, Rizal B. VIVEROS, Pinamalayan V. (REGION IV – LIMITATION) CACUPA, ANTIQUE, BOAC, Isla Gaviota C.

The above-listed announcement supersedes earlier announcement regarding any of the aforesaid vacancies and take effect immediately.

May 09, 2007

(SGD.) MA. LOURDES O. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court &
Ex-Officio Secretary

4 MNLF rebs slain in Sulu despite Comelec call for truce

COTABATO CITY—AT LEAST four Moro National Liberation Front members were killed during a clash with soldiers in Kalingalang Caluang, Sulu yesterday, despite a 30-day ceasefire called by the Commission on Elections in the run-up to the May 14 elections.

Opposite clashes have erupted in Sulu between a splinter group of the MNLF and government troops since January resulting in the displacement of thousands of people.

Maj. Eugenio Batario, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), said those killed on Tuesday were followers of Ustadz Rahter Malik.

It was Malik's group that was responsible for besieging at least 20 government officials, including Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino of the National Capital Region Command, for about two days last February.

Malik's men have since reportedly clashed with the military's Scouts and the soldiers were conducting clearing operations yesterday when they encountered the group. He said the gunfight in Barangay Ramiro started at around 6 a.m. and lasted for five hours.

Lt. Col. Eugenio Cesa, Wesmincom chief, said the conduct of preemptive strikes, security patrols and maneuvers, limited attacks, checkpoints, reconnaissance and patrol operations are being carried out to hinder groups would not pose a danger to the civilians.

Batario said his commanders had instructions from AFP Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon to pursue the Malik group and similar groups threatening the peace in Sulu.

Soldiers who are not involved in the military operations will continue obvious security duties like manning checkpoints, he said.

James Jimenez, the Comelec spokesperson, said they were saddened by the renewed violence. Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Court expected to allow Misuari to campaign, vote

By Kimberly Tan

DETAINED MORO REBEL LEADER NUR MISUARI is expected to be allowed by a Makati court to fly to Sulu for six days to campaign for possession of the provinces and to cast his vote.

Misuari appeared before Judge Winlove Inumerable of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 59 yesterday to seek permission to leave for Jolo from May 10-15.

Assistant state prosecutor Romeo Saraos told the court he had no objections.

After the hearing, Misuari told reporters he was grateful to the prosecution for not objecting to his petition.

Inumerable said he would issue an order soon, but as press time yesterday, he still had not released the order.

A member of his staff said the judge had already drafted the order, but was still studying it.

Misuari, honorary chair of the Moro National Liberation Front, is facing rebellion charges in connection with an uprising by his followers in Jolo in November 2001.

He has been under house arrest since mid-2006 in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, near St. Luke's Medical Center, where he was previously taken after complaining of various ailments, including hypertension.

2 Sandigan, CA justices lead race for SC slot

By Lelia B. Salaverria

TWO JUSTICES FROM THE SANDIGANBAYAN and the Court of Appeals topped the list of eight nominees chosen by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) to replace retired Supreme Court Justice Romeo Callejo, who left the high tribunal last month.

The list will be submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo who will choose Callejo's successor.

Getting seven votes each from the JBC were Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita de Castro and Court of Appeals Justice Mario Lopez, according to a JBC source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Justice Hercules Reid Hofilena, a member of the JBC, confirmed the identities of those who got the top seven.

Next highest was Justice Ruben Reyes who got six votes.

List of nominees

Getting five votes each were Labor Secretary and former Court of Appeals Justice Arturo Brion, Court of Tax Appeals Presiding Justice Ernesto Acosta, Court of Appeals Justice Edgardo Cruz and Sandiganbayan Justices Gregory Ong and Francisco Villaruz Jr.

The eight-member JBC may someday nominate a counter-up with a list of institutions.

Gonzalez earlier said he thought the Court's involvement in the plunder case against deposed president Joseph Estrada would work against her opportunity to the high tribunal.

De Castro chairs the Sandiganbayan's special division that was hearing the case. The trial, which recently concluded, awaits resolution.

Gonzalez said that until the case was finished, the Court might not be reluctant to the Supreme Court.

Board member

Prior to joining the Sandiganbayan, De Castro served as assistant chief state counsel in the Department of Justice. She is also a member of the Board of Regents of the Philippine Judicial Academy.

The two also nominated to fill in the vacancy created by the appointment of Reynato Puno as Supreme Court Chief Justice following the retirement of Artemio Panganiban. The post, however, went to former Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura.

Villaruna, on the other hand, used to be a Cebu City regional trial court judge before his appointment in the Court of Appeals. He is married to Supreme Court clerk of court Lutas Villaruna.

He was given an award by the Supreme Court for his efficient management of cases at the Iloilo City RTC.

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Terms of endearment mark GO's final push

From page A1

country, making donations known in order to create an "awareness" about their candidacies.

In a few days, the candidates will know whether the "awareness" has turned into "realization" and whether the "endorsement" has turned into votes.

In an interview, Ortuoste said the traditional style of campaigning by "shaking hands and kissing babies" could still work, but it's no longer realistic in a media-driven society.

Identifying effective endorsers, pinpointing strengths and weaknesses and knowing the peculiarities of a specific region can guide the candidates or others in campaign and what approach to use in convincing the voters.

Cory magic

Recall, for instance, has a history of voting for a Batangas candidate.

This explains why Drilon is no "Noynoy" Aquino III, who is from Tarlac. Just as Noy's awareness for a low comprehension rate is blind," said his campaign manager, Iloilo Rep. Prospero "Pros" Nograles.

Allied said his staff had found a formula to offset this—by linking former President Corazon Aquino, who ranked high in "endorsement appeal," campaign for her son in Ilocos, as well as in the Pampanga, an administration bailiwick since the 2001 elections.

Big 1

Cory Aquino, former President Joseph Estrada and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo topped the 2(1) endorsement survey conducted by the group three political endorsers is a survey commissioned by GO.

According to the survey, 16 percent of the respondents said they would vote for whoever Estrada, Aquino and Arroyo endorsed, against 10 percent who said they would vote for those who avowed vote for President Macapagal Arroyo endorsed.

Asked on many changes, opposition senatorial candidate and ex-Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV has come back a long review still didn't know Trillanes was a candidate. But among those who knew, a high number indicated they "preferred" Trillanes over other candidates, Arroyo said.

"This means, Trillanes is making dalire (easy to say, let's go endearing qualities," he said.

Independent candidate Gregorio Honasan's final push in Mindanao is relying on Misamis Rep. Jose Calixto Fortunato Apostol, who ranked high in "endorsement appeal," campaign for her son in Ilocos, as well as in the Pampanga, an administration bailiwick since the 2001 elections.

Big 1

Cory Aquino, former President Joseph Estrada and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo topped the 2(1) endorsement survey conducted by the group three political endorsers is a survey commissioned by GO.

5 dead, 35 wounded in Tacurong bombing

From page A1

across from a restaurant where politicians and election officials were meeting ahead of next week's balloting.

Most of the victims were tricycle drivers and passengers.

Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu condemned the "dastardly attack against innocent civilians."

"I believe Karma would befall whoever was responsible for the attack. God is just. He would not allow wrongdoing to go unpunished," he said.

Sources said one of the five fatalities died on the spot and the others in the hospital. Six injured were wounded and were taken to Tacurong Hospital, Quijano Hospital and Sunday Medical Clinic.

Improvised device

"We are still investigating the motive behind the bomb attack and the group responsible for the bombing," Chief Supt. Alexis Tuy Jr. said. He can base claimed responsibility for the

AN EXPLOSION in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, last 11, including this little girl, when it tore through a tricycle terminal near a packed public market. (PHOTOS FROM INQUIRER.NET READERS)

blast.

Initial police reports said the blast was caused by an improvised explosive device, according to Major Jalac Mandilla.

Rep. Teng Mangudadatu, who was at the political meeting, told dxMS radio in Cotabato City that a small armor was grouped out of the pavement by the blast.

The area was littered with shoes and slippers of the victims and other people who scampered away to panic, he said.

Blast shook neighborhood

Roman Catholic Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, whose office is near the site, said, "The explosion shook our house and it shook the neighborhood."

Tacurong was hit by bombs last year believed set off by the al Qaida-linked extremist Abu Sayyaf group and its allies in the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah.

Last Dec. 28, four people were wounded in the explosion of a mail bomb in Tacurong, and four others were wounded in another blast near the market two months earlier. *Reports from Agatha Z. Jimeo and Jeffrey Mateo, Inquirer Mindanao, AFP and AP*

Mike A gets doctors' OK to go back to work

From page A1

heart surgery on April 8.

President Macapagal-Arroyo canceled her only appointment for the day—a visit from domestic helper Sarah Demdoms who was spared from the death penalty in Saudi Arabia—to be with her husband during his check-up at St. Luke's Medical Center.

Dr. Allen Dupra, Corazonne, Mike Sarmiento consulting physician, earlier said he had wanted to watch Ms wife's fight off depression.

She said Arroyo felt depressed after being forced to limit his physical activities and being asked to avoid stressful situations to facilitate his recovery and prevent an aneurysm.

"Of course, even for a normal individual who is restricted from going back to his normal life, there is some sort of depression since he cannot get back to (his usual activities)," Corazonne told the Inquirer recently.

She said the restrictions also affected Arroyo's appetite and general well-being.

Since his discharge, Arroyo has been going back to the hospital for cardiac rehabilitation every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

He passed all tests

Ms Arroyo and her husband went to the hospital before 7 a.m. yesterday and left at around 4 p.m., according to ABC-CBC reporters for customer affairs Marites Lagarejos.

Lagarejos said Mike Arroyo was very cheerful when he and the President left, and showed no signs that he was just a shortage."

"He passed all tests. He didn't see any problem," Dr. Rommel Cariño said.

It was Cariño who performed the coronary-bypass and triple bypass on Arroyo after the President's husband was diagnosed with a thickening aortic aneurysm, which involved a tear in the wall of the aorta, the biggest blood vessel in the body.

Aorta has improved

Cariño said Arroyo's vital organs were monitored during the two-hour checkup and were found to be in good condition.

He said a CT scan showed that parts of his aorta had even strengthened and the cylinder or graft placed on the torn aorta was stable.

"His blood pressure and heart rate are well controlled. His diet is OK, he likes his weight issue," Cariño said.

Cariño said that because of the good results, doctors granted Arroyo's request to be allowed to go back to work.

"He can go to his office but only for half a day for the next two weeks," Cariño said.

Busy campaigning

"He was very happy that he can go back to work," he added.

Cariño said the doctors allowed the bruises it caused be part of his cardiac rehabilitation sessions. But she was not around yesterday and neither were her two brothers—Juan Miguel and Dato, who were campaigning in their bids for congressional seats in Pampanga and Camarines Sur, respectively.

Top AFP officers tell soldiers to back TU, Palparan ...

From page A1

military should not resort to extralegal means. Soldiers are told that through voting, we can choose our leaders," he said.

Sarza said it has in the past, soldiers did not care about their votes.

"But after today, personnel respond to that call. Come May 14, they will have abortion do this—that is, to vote wisely and not to waste their votes," he said.

Some also said that there was indeed a guideline being circulated to officers on the ground—to vote for candidates who could "help the military carry out its mission" and who were "sympathetic to the morale and welfare of the military."

He said there were no specific political groups or candidates named in the guideline.

"There is no organized plan. We don't have soldiers; we do not dictate whom they should vote for," Sarza said.

Raid on Suara

But members of the military party-list group Suara Bangsamoro are not buying Sarza's line.

Suara chair Jeynab Ampatuan said that aside from rolling groups, the military had also mobilized on a campaign aimed at harassing the group's officers and supporters.

Ampatuan said that on Sunday afternoon, members of the Army's 64th Infantry Battalion raided the headquarters of the Suara Bangsamoro in Buldon, Datuan del Sur.

She said the soldiers interrogated non-Suara volunteers there for hours on end.

"The soldiers asked how the party was able to establish chapters in Datuan del Sur, as well as the names of the party leaders," Ampatuan said.

She said the soldiers took pictures of the volunteers while interrogating them, and confiscated Suara campaign materials.

Ampatuan said the soldiers also warned the volunteers against campaigning for Suara and other party-list groups supposedly fronting for the communist New People's Army.

"What happened belies the statements of the Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., that the military would stay above politics in the 2007 election," Ampatuan said.

'Liquidation'

Militant groups have also accused the military of embarking on a campaign in "liquidation" during the elections.

In 1986, North Cotabato, Suara member Datuan Ali was shot dead by an unidentified gunman on Sunday.

Ali, 48, was the acting principal of the Dunggoan Elementary School. *Reports from Jeffrey Mateo, Julie C. Baldoz and Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*

SECTORAL GROUPS CALL FOR BOYCOTT OF SENATE POLLS

Various urban-based groups in Luzon are calling for a boycott of next week's senatorial elections on the belief that the new Senate that will convene in July 2007 will be no different from the outgoing one: an expensive debating club with miniscule legislative output and serving as a venue up-throated for the 2010 political agendas of many of its members.

In a manifesto, the Koalisyon ng Mamamayan para Demokrasiya sa Senado (KMDS)—a coalition composed of more than 25 progressive groups—urged voters to just focus on electing the best candidates for congressional and local posts contested in the May 14 elections—and skip voting for senatorial bets altogether as a collective protest against the appalling erosion of the once-revered Senate into a non-performing legislative chamber that politicians have turned into a launching pad for their personal and partisan interests.

"Boycotting the senatorial race is our moral equivalent of war on hate and absolute politics, of which the Senate has regrettably become a fertile breeding ground," said **Ricardo Najera**, KMDS convener spokesperson and concurrent president of the People's Urban Poor Coordinating Council.

Alongside Najera, the other signatories to the boycott manifesto are **Eusebio Bimpoli**, deputy spokesperson of KMDS; **Danilo Ramos**, president of Old Capitol Site TODA; **Ruben Beltar**, chairperson of the Samahan ng Pahanga sa Commonwealth Federation Inc.; **Clarita Martinez**, president of the Kabahalan Para sa Bayan-QC; **Belyzar Abellera**, chairman of the BAHORA QC; **Orlando Lampa**, president of the Federation of Jeep Owners of Makati; **Ralph Tan**, chairman of the Muagay Brotherhood Organization Ampalit City; and **Jeff Sales**, chairman of the Kapuso Multi-Purpose Coop.

The other signatories are **Ernesto Espantilla**, president of the El Samson Society; **Martin Pollos**, president of the El Angelo Homeowners Association; **Vicky Mercante**, chairperson of the Samahan ng Kabahalan sa Hondaway; **Pat Pelea**, president of the Kabahalan Neighborhood Organization; **Percy Bate**, president, PINAGPALA; **Domingo Divina**, president of the Kampagan Gubat Homeowners Association (KAGUHA); **Rommel Sevilla**, chairman of the National Federation of Computer Technologists, Inc. (NAFECOT); and **Darwin Reyes**, president of the Mandap Homeowners Association.

Najera said there was no basis for the widespread fear that the next Senate will live up to its shameful reputation as the "most expensive debating club" in the country, which would continuously engage in obstructionist politics instead of engaging in what voters have elected senators to do in the first place, which is to pass laws and advocate causes beneficial to the poor and other sectors on the fringes of Philippine society.

"This could arrive at this gloomy forecast for the incoming Senate just by looking at the present cast of senatorial wannabes from both the administration and opposition camps," Najera said.

In their manifesto, the KMDS officials said the senators, after the convening and organization of the chamber is fully, "will immediately plunge into an orgy of senseless expose in a mindless and desperate effort to abort the country's new-found economic dynamism."

They said the Senate will remain lethargic and unconcerned with the chance for work and good legislation, and less re-enacted national budgets had resulted from the failure of most senators to do their primary job of writing laws.

"The blurred political lines and shifting political alliances are also a sure formula for a Senate that will not pay attention to the serious work of legislation and advocating good causes for our people," they manifesto said.

It asserted that, "The single biggest proof of such an anomaly—and insult to the electorate—is that erstwhile critics of President Arroyo are now on her pro-administration ticket while her erstwhile allies responsible for the downfall of former President Estrada are now on Estrada's opposition slate."

"Filipinos do not want the emergence of another 'good-for-nothing' Senate that the taxpayers will support through their honest labor and toil," the manifesto said. "Let us do away with this political aberration and abomination by boycotting the Senate race so voters can fully dedicate their discerning and wise votes to the local and congressional races."

"Boycotting the May 14 senatorial elections is the Filipinos' moral option," Najera said.

Lakeshore developer cited outstanding by Creba

MEXICO, MAPINDUH – The Chamber of Real Estate & Builders' Associations Inc. (CREBA) has named the west Coastal Developer as the Year Themed Community award by Central Country Estate Inc (CCEI), owner and developer of the Lakeshore Estate. Outstanding president Pedro Tarsi and Congressman Eduardo Andaya presented the award to CCEI president and CEO, Antonio Nantes II. Manglo received the plaque during the convention held on April 26, at the Rajadio Ballroom of the Manila Hotel.

CCEI was recognized for its downtown project, The Lakeshore, developed to be Central Luzon's Silicon Alley. Still, the development is strategically located at Lakeshore 71 along North Luzon Expressway near in Mexico. It is a self-contained community developed as a residential, commercial, and recreational facility, with exclusive ambiance and resort amenities at affordable comparable with the best in the world. The

ARCHITECT Manglo, Central Country Estate Inc. president and CEO is congratulated by Vice President Noli De Castro for winning the Developer of the Year award. They are joined by CREBA national president Pedro Tarsi (left) and Honorable Dulatia, Jr. (right).

houses are cozy Italian Mediterranean-inspired villas supported by amenities that provide for recreation and relaxation.

CCEI was chosen based on Lakeshore's social impact in terms of cost-benefit considerations, economic returns in terms of employment generated, value added and the impact on the local government, innovative approaches introduced in the development.

During its pre-construction, one major obstacle that the developer encountered is the fact that the project is lying on dry land. They broke through that barrier and tapped the nearest water table of the east in order to create the first river man-made river valley in the Central Luzon. The lake then, became the focal point of the development. They also transplanted 13,000 units of mature trees or 10 to 20 years old and relocated some 1,000 mature trees from Clark, which were in the way of the proposed Clark-Subic road. Since they value the importance of open spaces, the planners allocated 61 percent of it to the first phase.

The project has become the benchmark of master development in the Philippines and especially admired by developers and investors abroad.

The "Developer of the Year" is the highlight of the Pillar Awards, a special project of the Cebu Coliseum of London which is composed of former Cebu eminent personalities.

Poll watchdogs learn from Garci: Focus on canvass

From page A1

corrections of the mostly unjammed Lanao Del Sur provincial bet Tranfield Ebrahim.

But ER is the first municipal race which is tallied the 200 ZTE units are put present.

"Before there was singing hymns (manpadding and shouting), we thought that cheating was mostly done on election day itself, through vote-buying, flying voters, etc., and during the counting. But it is not the canvassing that's the whole hand is committed, as the 'brand' is not to less-for-us votes surrounding time," he said.

Eric Mon, secretary general of Namfrel (National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections), echoed Medina's concern: "We only focused on ER before."

With the country still stuck with manual elections, it takes days for volunteers to start spotting discrepancies between individual ERs and the resulting Certificates of Canvass (COCs), the tally of ERs gathered in a municipality or city), be announced.

By the time municipal, city and provincial COCs start coming out, "two to four weeks" had already passed since Election Day.

Human intervention

In that span of time, Abalos said, a lot of "human intervention" could have taken place—the bribery of canvassing board members, tampering or switching of ERs.

And by then, at the height of the canvassing process, the number of active Namfrel volunteers would have dropped to "50 percent" of their original size during Election Day.

"Only one out of four volunteers would still be reporting. The rest would have returned to their jobs, businesses, schools," Abalos said.

Their ranks have so thinned that there would be no one left to "return to the municipality or city" where the discrepancies occurred and produce the ERs screened by questionable COCs. (An ER is considered the most reliable source document since it was produced "cleared" by the polling day executed by the teachers who oversee the balloting.)

"Who else can we give instructions to?" Abalos said. Namfrel may have accumulated data possibly indicating massive fraud, yet that data could not be "acted upon" quickly enough for lack of personnel.

Missing element

With Lente around, perhaps this missing element would now be in place—a recognized, transparent legal team that can immediately file a motion before or any witness found on the information gathered by the other volunteers, Abalos said.

While the watchers have the soul, the power of faith, and probably the numbers to cover enough ground, they realize they are up against formidable, mostly unseen forces capable of pulling off modern "Hello Garci."

With "Dagami" framed from the "Garci" standard, the poll watchers undoubtedly need to extend against increasingly sophisticated modes of cheating, whether these are done at the precincts, in the canvassing boards or, worse, in higher circuit-only watering-happens manners can't do.

After all, it still took political insiders, intelligence operatives and political figures—not ordinary citizens from the ranks of poll watchers—to pry the Garci scandal wide open in June 2005, more than a year after the May 2004 presidential elections.

Wiretapped conversations purportedly between President Mesiapagkakaisa and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were made public, enlivening the issue how stolen the 2004 presidential election. The President and Garcillano have denied any wrongdoing.

1st time: Lawyers as poll watchers

Lente, the new group joining the old watchdogs like Namfrel and the PPCRV (Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting), believes that nothing beats a meticulously and low sensitivity to the safety of poll watchers could significantly deter any schemes to manipulate the election results.

That army includes half a million volunteers called to action by the Catholic Church in the country.

"Whatever they may be planning out there, we will be making arrangements for complementation on the ground," said Medina. "With our presence, they better come up with other ideas."

Medina, a bar professor who is also executive director of the Ateneo Human Rights Center, said the coming elections would mark the first time lawyers would form part of the poll-watching "structure."

In previous elections, lawyers figured in the canvassing mainly as primary assistants for the competing politicians. This time, Medina said, there will be Lente members watching alongside ready-with Namfrel or PPCRV volunteers the latter being mostly laypersons not versed in the legal technicalities of a poll canvass.

Lente, which aims to deploy at least 5,000 lawyers, paralegals or law students nationwide, can be most useful in applying the "lessons" poll watchers have learned from the "Garci" episode, he said.

Numerical tricks

Just what are those numerical tricks poll watchers are trained to spot when examining ERs and COCs? Abalos gave actual examples that Namfrel has culled from past elections:

- The figure "888.8" got written as "One two" instead of "seven." This was spotted in Bicolandia in 1998.
- The numeral "10" got written as "ninety." It happened in Mindoro in the 2001 poll.
- With just two strokes of a pen, "1,360" in the municipal COC became "4,360" in the provincial COC (Zamboanga del Norte, 2001).
- "3,569" grew eleven five-fold and became "23,599," while "33,764" morphed into "38,764." This was documented in two towns in Bulacan in 1995. Twenty-two other towns in that province produced a total of 212,899 "extra" votes.
- And in the 2004 elections, that was encountered in Tawi-Tawi. With already 80 percent of the votes canvassed in the Namfrel Quick Count, Presidential Candidate A had garnered only 13,025 votes against Candidate B's 63,203 votes. It was thus enjoying an insurmountable lead of 42,267 votes.

But after the remaining 11 percent or 9,555 votes were canvassed, the official tally showed B gaining a total of over 49,601 votes over A's 33,404 votes. It still won in the province, yes, but by relatively narrower margin.

The non-brazen-about 11,000 votes cast for B were miraculous A, Abalos said. Similar occurrences were also observed in some other provinces in Mindanao, wherein a total of 106,564 "B" votes got moved to the "A" column.

Known forms of cheating

There are forms of cheating which poll watchers can easily detect, he said, such as vote-buying, the use of "flying voters," ballot box-stuffing, and various tactics to sow confusion, delay the process, or discourage people from swaying to the poll booths.

But beyond the premises, there would be hazy areas way outside their radar. Abalos wondered: What if candidates themselves conspire to engage in cheating forms? A winning provincial candidate with a cash fund willing to donate some of his votes to a party mate so the latter can make it to the Magic 12?

"Of course, we cannot—and will not—monitor phone calls. That's not part of our mandate," said former Ambassador Henrietta de Villa, PPCRV national chair.

As the accredited citizen arm of the Comelec, the Church-based group aims to deploy half-a-million volunteers—6 or 8 each for per precinct—nationwide. Established in 1982, it will be mustering its 160 doctors this May 14.

"But we can't be frustrated. What we are doing is being a part of our (Catholic) faith. For more promises is about restoring credibility to our elections, otherwise more and more will just shy away from them," De Villa said.

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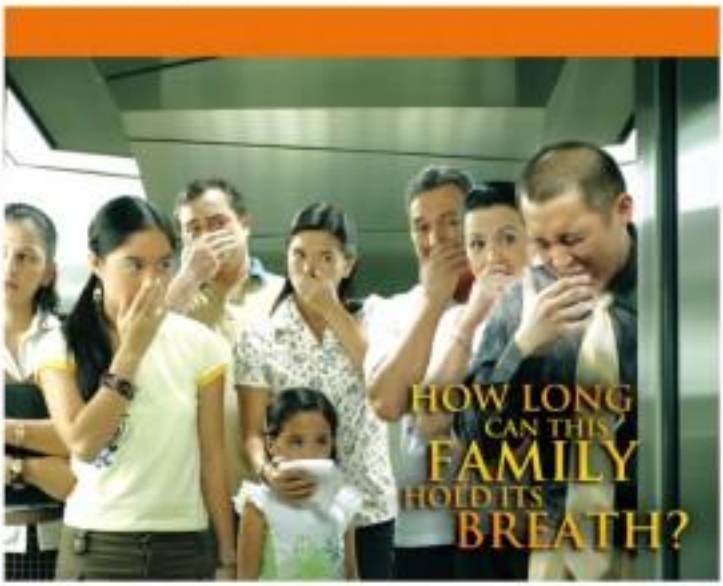
AMAHAN ng mga ANGANGALAKAL para sa KAUUNLAD ng OKAL na KONOMIYA

A SMILE PARTYLIST



INFLUENZA. A SINGLE SNEEZE TRAVELING AT A SPEED OF 600 MILES PER HOUR MAY CARRY ABOUT 100,000 INFLUENZA VIRUS CELLS. THESE STUBBORN CELLS CAN STAY ALIVE IN A ROOM FOR AT LEAST 30 MINUTES. EVENTUALLY, THEY COULD ENTER YOUR BODY THROUGH YOUR MOUTH, EYES OR NOSE.

Now, think about it, whom do you share a room with?
Or to put it another way, with whom do you share the air you breathe?

Influenza can infect anyone just by breathing the same air an infected person breathes. Moving too fast, every member of your family might be infected before you know it.

This highly contagious disease called Influenza is commonly misconceived as "just a Flu" or the common cold. The truth is, it could lead to serious complications like Bronchitis, Pneumonia, heart failure, and ultimately, death.

Fortunately there is a vaccine that can protect you and your family from this threat. Get yourself and your family vaccinated against the Influenza virus.

GlaxoSmithKline Leading the way in vaccines

BUONG PAMILYA MAGPABAKUNA

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT YOUR VACCINATION NEEDS TODAY.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AND INVESTORS OF THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT OF SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

DURING THE MARCH 22, 2007 LAUNCHING OF THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT LOCATED AT HACIENDA LOOC, NASUGBU BATANGAS, SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION (SMIC) ANNOUNCED THAT:

1. THE PROPERTIES IN PHASE I OF THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT ARE NOT COVERED BY ADVERSE CLAIMS.

2. THE ADVERSE CLAIMS ANNOTATED BY CARMONA REALTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OVER SOME OF THE PROPERTIES COVERED BY THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT HAVE ALREADY LAPSED AND ARE NOT VALID AND SUBSISTING.

THESE STATEMENTS ARE FALSE.

THE TRUTH IS THAT:

1. TCT NO. 108973 AND TCT NO. 108974 ISSUED BY THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS OF NASUGBU, BATANGAS, WHICH FORM PART OF PHASE I OF THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT, ARE COVERED BY ADVERSE CLAIMS.

2. THE ADVERSE CLAIMS ANNOTATED BY CARMONA REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON 2,700 HECTARES OUT OF THE 5,800 HECTARES COVERED BY THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT AROSE FROM THE FAILURE AND REFUSAL OF SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION, MANILA SOUTHCOAST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MSDC) AND THEIR AFFILIATE COMPANIES TO FULLY PAY THE DISTURBANCE COMPENSATION OF THE FARMERS WHO HELD THE CERTIFICATES OF LAND OWNERSHIP (CLOA'S) OVER SAID PROPERTIES, AS WELL AS MSDC'S FAILURE AND REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH ITS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS. THE ISSUANCE OF NEW TITLES TO MSDC, AN SMIC AFFILIATE, IS IRREGULAR AND IMPROPER SINCE SEVERAL OF THESE FARMERS WHO WERE THE REGISTERED OWNERS OF AT LEAST 2,000 HECTARES COVERED BY THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT HAVE NOT YET SURRENDERED THEIR OWNER'S DUPLICATE CERTIFICATES OF TITLES (CLOA'S) TO THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN FULLY PAID THEIR DISTURBANCE COMPENSATION, AS REQUIRED BY LAW AND STATED IN THE MARCH 10, 1998 COURT ORDER IN DARAB CASE NO. IV-Ba-3468.

3. THE ADVERSE CLAIMS ANNOTATED BY CARMONA REALTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON AT LEAST 11 TITLES WHICH FORM PART OF THE 5,800 HECTARE HAMILO COAST PROJECT REMAIN VALID AND SUBSISTING AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN CANCELLED IN COURT. IN THE CASE OF SAJONAS V. CA (258 SCRA 79) AND DIAZ-DUARTE VS. ONG (298 SCRA 388), THE SUPREME COURT RULED THAT A NOTICE OF ADVERSE CLAIM REMAINS VALID AND SUBSISTING EVEN AFTER THE LAPSE OF THE 30-DAY PERIOD AND CONTINUES AS A LIEN UPON THE PROPERTY UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT IT IS CANCELLED BY A COURT ORDER.

THE PUBLIC AND PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS ARE, THEREFORE, ADVISED TO TAKE THE PROPER STEPS TO ASCERTAIN AND VERIFY THAT THE PROPERTIES IN THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT THAT THEY WILL BE PURCHASING FROM SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION OR ANY OF ITS AFFILIATES, PARTNERS AND AGENTS ARE NOT PART OF THE 2,700 HECTARES WHICH ARE COVERED BY SAID ADVERSE CLAIMS.

MAY 9, 2007, MAKATI CITY.

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PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORPORATION

NOTICE FROM THE LEGITIMATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORPORATION

The Court of Appeals has issued a TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, enjoining and prohibiting the implementation of the Decision rendered by the Regional Trial Court of Makati City, Branch 138, and all other allied processes, including the Order dated April 12, 2007 and Writ of Execution, in the case filed by Victor Africa against the members of the PHC Nominee constituted in 2004. However, certain parties and purported members of the group of Victor Africa and Erlinda I. Bildner have refused to respect, recognized and comply with TRO issued by the Court of Appeals. They constituted their own "PHC board" and attempted to mislead the stockholders, banks and clients PHC and the general public.

Legal issues have already been brought before the proper forum, and all claims of the parties are properly litigated before the court, not through alleged notices of the Africa-led group. In the meantime, the TRO issued by the Court of Appeals must be respected and complied with, on pain of contempt not only of the Court of Appeals but also of the Sandiganbayan, among other sanctions.

Please be advised that Philcomsat Holdings Corporation shall recognized and honor only those transactions authorized by its legitimate Board of Directors and Officers led by Acting Chairman/Director Enrique L. Locsin, Vice President/Director Philip S. Brodett, Corporate Secretary Roberto Y. San Jose, Assistant Corporate Secretary Delfin P. Angeles, AVP Johnny Tan, the duly designated agents representatives of the above-named, and those made through their counsel, Sen. Rene A.V. Saguisag.

Any transaction made by or on behalf of Victor Africa, Erlinda I. Bildner, or any other member of their group, their agents, representatives, and lawyers, are contrary to the TRO of the Court of Appeals and shall not be honored by PHC.

We trust that those concerned shall be guided accordingly and follow the rule of law.

THE INCUMBENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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IPO asked to revoke hypertension drug's patent

By Russel W. Borsingo

A FOOD-OWNED PHILIPPINE company yesterday urged regulators to cancel the patent held by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer on a popular anti-hypertension drug Norvasc.

Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) wants the Intellectual Property Office to cancel the US-based company's exclusive patents on amlodipine besilate, known as Norvasc, as Filipino pharmaceutical firms can import or produce cheaper alternatives.

In a 30-page petition, the PITC argued that the patent for Norvasc was "neither new and novel nor non-inventive ... and was contrary to public order and morality."

The concerned patent—PH Patent No. 24346—would expire on June 12, but PITC executive vice president Teddy Elmo E. Rivera said it should not have been granted in the first place.

"PITC believes that with this petition, local pharmaceutical firms would be able to manufacture generic equivalents of Norvasc at much more affordable prices," Rivera said.

He said that if the IPO acted favorably on its petition, it would pave the way for similar cases to be pursued.

Pfizer's local patent (Patent 13886) is based on one granted in the United Kingdom in 1990, which was also the basis of a US patent, issued 1990.

A Norvasc tablet costs about one dollar in the Philippines, the only some 10 cents in India, PITC said on its web site. With a report from AFP

US visa backlog puts Asian lives on hold

ASIAN IMMIGRANTS IN OHIO SAY 9/11a backlogs are keeping families split up and that the problem is now getting enough attention in the current debate over immigration policy.

"We're not treated as criminals but still not consider people like them," said Margaret Wang, an immigration lawyer with many Asian clients. "They're worried it will only ever Littleton and not better."

Marcelo Gallardo was 32 in 1995, a newly minted Americanized citizen, when she applied to bring her children—nine here from the Philippines. Twelve years later, she is still waiting for visas for them.

"It's very hard," said Gallardo, who has been filling out forms, paying filing fees and praying. "I want to be with my kids, too. I'm getting old now, and I need them here."

As I can understand US citizens, Gallardo is entitled to bring over her children. But her family in your work in line for visas that are especially scarce for the Philippines, Cuba and Chile.

Path for millions

Much of the debate over immigration policy in Washington centers on what steps, if any, should be taken to open a path for millions of illegal immigrants to eventually become US citizens. Most of the illegal immigrants are from Mexico or other Latin American countries who can walk across the border.

But illegal immigration is a much more daunting and vexed option for immigrants from India, China and the Pacific Rim who must travel thousands of miles to reach additional countries like Ohio.

"For the Asian community, there's just no easy way sliding from Manila or going to illegally immigrate here," said Bob Hittel, a research fellow with the American Immigration Law Foundation. "The only way is legal immigration. And there's not a lot of that for these folks."

Gurcharan Singh and his wife were legally born India in 1997, nearly 15 years after they had applied for immigrant visas. The couple brought their youngest son, but left behind their oldest son. He had turned 21 while the family awaited its visas, so he could not accompany his parents. Rather, he had to petition to immigrate as an adult child.

10-year wait

The wait for such a visa is more than 10 years.

Singh, a college-educated factory worker, sat beside his wife in a small apartment he shared with a son at their Hilliard home.

"My main my son to come here so the whole family is together," he said, as his wife began to cry.

The United States accepts a limited number of immigrants each year. The quotas are designed to spread the coveted visas around the globe.

People from India, China, Mexico and the Philippines have the longest waits because demand there is so high.

"People's lives are on hold waiting for them," said Jayashree Bidari, an immigration lawyer and chairwoman of the Ohio chapter of the South Asian Bar Association.

But group wants any comprehensive immigration reform efforts can't just benefit one area. It is pushing for visa quotas to be raised and made flexible to reconcile long waits.

Most of the debate never reaches Gallardo. A US Marine and married Gallardo's daughter in the Philippines and brought her family to Cleveland. Gallardo followed in 1998 to help care for four grandchildren.

Her small home is dotted with photos of children and grandchildren still in Manila, where good jobs are scarce and hoping to connect, she said.

Gallardo's dining room table is piled with forms and correspondence from the federal government. Some paperwork sits but, a recent letter informs her and another affidavit is required. It is another $100 to put it in the filing fee.

"I suffer, I cry," she said. "Because how many more years do I have to be with these kids?" AP

IBOTO SA PARTY LIST!
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ANgat Ating Kabuhayan
PROGRAMA:
PAGLIKHA NG TRABAHO PARA SA OFW - PANGKABUHAYAN
KALUSUGAN - EDUKASYON - KAPAYAPAAN
KALIKASAN AT PABAHAY - PALUPA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, May 9, 2007
Old Week of Easter

1st Reading:	Acts 11:1-18
Gospel:	John 10:1-10

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower. If any of his branches doesn't bear fruit, he breaks it off; and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, that it may bear even more fruit.

"You are already made clean by the word I have spoken to you. Live in me as I live in you. The branch cannot bear fruit by itself but has to remain part of the vine; so neither can you if you don't remain in me.

"I am the vine and you are the branches. As long as you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not remain in me is thrown away as a dry, dead branch, and such branches are gathered up, thrown into the fire and burned.

"If you remain in me and my words in you, you may ask whatever you want and it will be given you. My Father is glorified when you bear much fruit, showing that you are my disciples."

Commentary

Confession and penance were familiar concepts used to explain Saint Luke's account of the early Church's Paul and Barnabas begin the journey that led to Jerusalem, ongoing taking the way would the churches where they happened and all that has been accomplished. After introduction to Jerusalem they were met with opposition from the Apostles, who were to be questioned according to Moses' law. He speaks, and other converts to Jesus into the past, since the beginning of the Church has had to deal with people who chose not their version of life that is not found in any other. Jesus says, in John 10:10, that the Church must hold on these issues and decide with the power of the Holy Spirit where these issues stand.

Jesus tells his disciples that we must be connected and united to him in order to receive mercy so that the fruit can grow. He lives in the vine that belongs to the Father, the vinegrower, and we can only bear fruit and have life if we remain in him. Jesus is the true vine, and we are the branches. Without him we can do nothing. Jesus is the source of our life and our salvation. He is the one who gives life to us. In the fruit of our work that we have when we live out God and what is simply human feelings' agenda.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Have an opinion? Send your feedback to inquirer.opinion@inquirer.com.ph or 897-2700 (Globe) or 403-2700 (Smart)

Desaparecido

ON APRIL 26, JONAS BURGOS DISAPPEARED. AN agriculture graduate of Benguet State University, the son of the late Malaya publisher Jose Burgos had spent the day doing organic farming training in San Miguel, Bulacan. The farmers he had been helping were members of Ahensya ng Magbubukid on Bulacan (ABB), a chapter of the militant peasant organization Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

EDITORIAL

Burgos was reported home that evening, for a family gathering in their Tandang Sora home. Reports have it that a group of Toyota right-armed men who scored Burgos from the Ever Gotesco Mall and took him to a waiting red Toyota Revo. The abduction reportedly took place between 1:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

A security guard of a restaurant was one of the witnesses. The guard told investigators the kidnappers introduced themselves as policemen. The witness claimed the armed men asked the people inside the restaurant to calm down.

Burgos' family attempted to send text messages the whole night. They didn't receive an answer from Jonas until the following day at 10:46 a.m. when they got a message saying, "Tawagan na, kgn lang. (I'm sorry, was just taking a bath)."

More messages were sent, and the exchange proved confusing. The Burgos family called Jonas up, but his answers, they say, were unclear and he sounded like someone who had been drugged. His phone stopped ringing at 6 p.m. on Sunday. He has not been heard from since.

"We appeal to the hearts and conscience of those who know about my son's whereabouts to let us know about his condition," his mother Edith said in a public message. "If they think he has done anything, we ask them to give the family a chance to defend Jonas."

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has been accused by some groups of being behind the abduction. Naturally, the AFP vehemently denies it. The police have launched an investigation, but it hasn't progressed very far, although there is one promising lead. The license plate (TSB-106) on the vehicle reportedly used in the abduction was traced to a certain Mauro Madlang, the registered owner. Madlang told the police his vehicle was not a Toyota Revo, but a 1990 model Isuzu utility van. And that his vehicle had been impounded on June 24, 2006 by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources. A vehicle matching the description of the one actually used in the abduction was spotted in Barangay Bulacan.

Those are in the details in this case: a vehicle, with a license plate from another vehicle impounded by the government last year, spotted in Bulacan. And then a report that latest incident of an abduction with political overtones sounds.

We add our voice to that of the Burgos family in calling for Jonas' rapture to set him free. Jonas' brother, Jose Luis, has made this appeal: "We are calling to citizens of good hearts, please help our family to locate Jay Jay. If you have any little details of Jay-jay's whereabouts, the persons have details where you can contact us and we will assure you of confidentiality so as not to jeopardize your security as well."

But time may be running out. There is a rule of thumb in such cases—a grim one. The person who disappears has to resurface within a week of the disappearance, otherwise the chances of that person being seen alive again gets progressively remote. The KMP is one of many organizations that have been targeted by the administration as "communist fronts," and Burgos is just one of many members of those groups who have disappeared under extremely suspicious circumstances.

The Burgos family has been careful to avoid assigning blame, focusing instead on appealing to the authorities and the public to find Jonas. But his disappearance can't be separated from similar disappearances. His face is tied to encounters who were with him, and were abducted with him, and the claims and counter-claims of critics of the military and the AFP comes at a time when soldiers and the top brass can poised to be at the center of controversies involving their conduct in the coming elections.

Individually, there are policemen and military men who have shown sympathy for Jonas. But institutionally, civilian and military authorities alike have been sluggish in their response, and more interested in dodging responsibility than in recognizing that this is yet another black mark on the country's ability to uphold human rights.

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A very stupid mistake by the administration

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FORCE IS RIGHT AND PRICE IS WRONG IN THE Bataan incursion controversy in Mindanao?

He had it coming, say critics of Mayor Jesse Robredo from 1990 to 2001, the city government in Bicol that was ranked as the most livable of four mid-size cities from 8000 cities in 2000 in million in withholding taxes deducted from the salaries of 6,000 government employees. Under the law, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has the power to punish the fault deputies of the city government to pay for the taxes. By collecting that the city paid to the BIR P200 million is a compassion settlement. Many also admired that the city owes the BIR a huge amount. However, he and the Senate ruled would punish the opposition in Cebu Rich. And that he was denied the pension.

Critics ask two questions: 1. If withholding taxes were taken from the salaries of employees and not remitted, where did the money go? 2. If the city government is not liable for withholding taxes, what more can we expect from the big corporations that hold office in Makati Central Business District? Isn't that what we want the BIR to do, to be active in collecting taxes from those who can afford it?

It is the other hand that was being vindicated not by the unwarranted raise but by a guilt case filed by a political rival, Oscar Rios, claiming that the mayor has plum employees on the city payroll. This is the same accusation that he made against Governor Joey Salceda for his whole the Office of Ombudsman tried to suspend Rios; six months ago but was stopped by the people and the courts.

Rios' accusing that the suspension is punishment for daring was terrible. It was a very stupid move.

Of unnecessary candidate Lotis Lupoh continued up when the governor public favor. The attempt to suspend Mayor Rios at the election period is claiming as close is a glaring example of the administration's use of the law to remove local officials it does not like.

Even without the suspension, Rios is likely to lose in the election because of his arrogance and his failure to give us public or traffic enforcement. Many of us who have always been living with the traffic violations committed by Rios' supporters and his police escorts.

Then there is the other issue now being vindicated not by the unwarranted raise but by a guilt case filed by a political rival, Oscar Rios, claiming that the mayor has plum employees on the city payroll. This is the same accusation that he made against Governor Joey Salceda for his whole the Office of Ombudsman tried to suspend Rios; six months ago but was stopped by the people and the courts.

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The Dalisay woman Manny Pacaby has quickly become a character and she hosts a one with a house of a lawyer trying to clear up a little strap of a girl. In such a context, where do you think they can get rid of the people would be?

Manny's boxing victories have made him popular with Filipinos and this have gone to his head. He thinks he is more than he is really. Just as he is now aligning himself with him that his popularity would lend him a win in Congress, a job for which he is not qualified in the first place. In reality, the politicians just want to use him for their own selfish motives: he would be room vote against the impeachment of GMA, the irresistible, impressionable boxer would suffer his first defeat in the hands of a little woman. What a happy story, the Freeman hosts knocked out by Little Red Riding Hood in the political arena.

Manny's handlers are not fools. Inexpires has quickly acquired the bad habits of corpse. Early in the campaign, Sinanon was caught distributing unauthorized cards, an act prohibited by the Omnibus Election Code because it is a misuse of court funding, and for which he should be disqualified. Then videotaped a cut from the gimmicks of sportswriters, Pacquiao confessed a cheap propaganda gimmick of his own. He said that there is no "accommodation plea" against him, the even said in a TV interview that the man he said to kill him was paid P20 million.

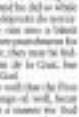
A big lie, said the people. A dumb trick, the Sinanon Command whose the report was supposed to have come from dressed that the gullible voters today. No wonder he was on the media with the mercy instead of to the police.

Perception, by the way, is the only candidate in the country allowed by the Commission on Elections to have at least 30 percent of the votes. Manny has to be afraid of a non-entrance day anymore?

Is this the horse-drug gladiator Filipinos admire?

Footnote to a farce

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

I JUST ASKED MY 4 REPORTER LAST WEEK IF Mike Arroyo's decision to drop the charges against 46 journalists was something to be glad about or slight of that she brought to the attention first.

The answer was: Why on earth should reporters be thankful for something like that? Why on earth should we even see it as a boon as given from above? Even drawback is not something we sneeze at. Sure, it is not fun to get sued, jostled or vociferously, by the powers. Even the sued is right. It is something to be enjoyed and exercised as a matter of course. It is not a gift that may be freely bestowed by the Free Gentleman or his aide, especially since another one of those has one agitated claim to the position two seconds. It is part of the condition of being free in the office for in a democracy. Or who like to think so do.

Arroyo's one justification for doing it, according to his lawyer, is that he is grateful for the media for not giving him the business and would like to improve the quality of it. Sure but by showing depths of generosity he has to associated with him, or to share his governmental bounty with others.

That is all very well, though as Ellen Tordesillas pointed out on TV last week, if he were to be determined to show boundless generosity to Pacquiao for a new house on his side, make amends. Arroyo could always extend his newfound generosity to his provincemate Atty. Peter Cayetano. To this day, Cayetano feels himself the object of legal and political harassment. But each see the administration of the single reality certainly Cayetano should probably be thanking the Free Gentlemen for the harassment and bringing him to next stop it. It has given him the chance to show his mettle, his resilience, even putting him to the top of the ornamental lamp, or near it.

While at this, one might add to Tordesillas' proposal that the robust lawyer also agree to open his book of dragons, apart from his book of life, to public scrutiny. This is what Cayetano has been demanding all this time, a blanket waiver. That was what Peng Lacson recently agreed to when he was arrested on a warrant issued by a court in the United States—and he did so while in the jails of Bataan. If those demands do occur on, then Cayetano will only can once a blank wall, which should be sufficient ground reason for him. If those deposits worsen, they may be hidden from Cayetano and Juan de la Cruz, but they will not be hidden from God.

More than this, it's all very well that the Free Gentleman is extending a change of wall, bear before the world, but that is a manner we find wanting. The manner. The manner is what we do in life and prove freedom. He filed suits against the journalists on much on press freedom. It is not his business to dress grievances in heaven forbid, government by dropping the charges against them. One recognizes on it as his duty somehow to avoid dropping them, enumerate against him. But in fact it is not his duty to avoid them in order. The consequences is not an option there, it is against the tuition. The manner is bigger than them.

Let's take it to the extreme range which complaints enlisted his public attorney he filed suits, which was then he was a private person and not public figure. That was while he he is cited in by Lidet's arresting his mayor and mayor's media. His friends and allies came out finally with power for him, specifically highlighting how cited he was for his spouse and her government. His supporters even went so far as to say he was especially impressive in safeguarding and/or protecting his relations between his wife and the president. He was her confidant on specific authorization or visits. Without him, she would not be as notable.

If Arroyo had decided to push through with his suit, that alone would have avoided it. He can't or won't use a private person, he is or was a public figure.

A couple of weeks ago, Jake Macasaet called me up to say that if anyone deserved to charges against them, he personally would continue with his case not against Arroyo even if the plaintiffs in the case not decided not to. He was especially incensed by the suggestion that Arroyo was doing him a favor by having dropped he he grant. Arroyo was the one who caused him to the other was arrested. Jake hasn't said when Mike Arroyo will be sued, he knows no doubt he is fuming. He would go after was sued him, unreasonably and mercilessly, while he, Arroyo, enjoyed complete control of the pretend on guilt he had caused him.

I told Jake I sympathized with him completely. I can one of the plaintiffs of the case not understanding that I am not one of the accused, and I am not a journalist. That is not how I am one of the plaintiffs is that I believe the case goes beyond the egos of the parties concerned to the very core of press freedom, as the case goes beyond the interests of the accused to that of the nation itself. If we just let the dragons of Arroyo have free rein to do as he has done to all of journalism, I am one of the plaintiffs because I think as I sense are the strains, fragile but capable of a right to rise to its feet.

Like vampire and werewolves, but monsters we have come to expect of the likes of Arroyo and like the rubbers of impunity, it is a most contemptible disease. It is nefarious and sporadic like a plague upon civilized. Look at how libel suits are turning today. You now even have blogs for libel. They are coming out of the woodwork like mushrooms. The one company that received compensation of electronic bail bug the gall to try to smash the attack in Ateneo. You Lagman, to jail you that sense. Enough already.

The time for contesting the whole story do seem to. They want to file libel charges against us, let us the charges right back in them. See which one ranks.

Close to flashpoint

ANALYSIS

Jaswinder Dhaliwalia

THE DEPARTURE OF THE DISPENSATION OF Mahatma Mayawa Jayawan Bhaiya was clearly a carefully orchestrated event. The Mayawa administration, to escape the incendiary fallout of the suspension on Team Unity candidates in the May election, sent a magnanimous air to the spirit of the fete, to Lord Governorate Secretary Ronaldo Dasmariñas, the people to finally vote.

He took significant to consider is that the suspension itself, characterized the dangerous brinksmanship being played by the administration, which is packing the electorate down to the wire of violent confrontation. Such dire provocative acts is morphing in the ether as was the polls as all vote. For now, the defiantness has outwardly assumed a moderation on the matter of Mahatma's formative powers and the government's security forces. The resolution is not on the last mark to a flashpoint. It is still being worked up.

The administration has pulled out all stops to the deployment of all to all outrages of acceptance to to influence the electorate's outcome, including crippling the campaign of opposition candidates through suspensions within and suddenly unbalanced the election process. The unprecedented release of pink-faced frauds to the rural electorate, and the overt intimidation by some of the Armed Forces of fellow candidates in Central Luzon include in Tarlac, Nueva Ecija as well as parts for some areas for Congress.

Prime Puno rules about his plan to allocate public decisions. The person, who is reported to be the architect of the slightly-loose method of distributing to the electorate, has been the subject of much rumors. The 2007 elections have already been effectively equal in scope to its use.

The unconstitutional independent institutions, is put with the responsibility of overseeing free and fairness of the elections and the impartial administration of justice, the Commission on Elections and the Office of the Ombudsman, respectively, have shown, through a series of decisions over the past few months, a partisan slip that has eroded public trust in their independence. The militant and the police, which have been called in to combat politically related violence which has been on the rise and will remain a fixture, have not demonstrated an impartiality that inspires public confidence. The Department of Justice, under Secretary Raul Gonzalez, has rapidly demonstrated into an attack dog of the administration against its political opponents.

The 2007 election results will not be in its electoral fraud has been set up for rigging. Few elections in recent memory have seen such stark attention, designed to protect a democratic society brought up in instruments to ensure the public of a survival of an administration and to rig the public's political opponents.

When Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez signed on May 3 the order declaring the BSD to solve the suspension order on Bucay, she said the order was "immediately executory" and that it will not be interrupted within the [six month] period prescribed." The May 3 order severed a preventive suspension issued by the Ombudsman in October on the strength of a complaint had by a police to suspend Bucay and alleging that the mayor had padded the air payroll with "ghost employees." When reminded that the new order was issued in the midst of the election in which Bucay is running for re-election, Gutierrez had the gumption to say, "Evidence, not politics, dictates our actions. Nothing more, nothing less."

This is the same official who last Jan. 31 drove to Pasay to "immediately implement" all suspension and dismissal orders on local officials—namely opposition politicians—facing criminal or administrative charges. On the strength of this order, Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad is pending a rash threat of more than 100 named men to cause the Rizal Provincial Capitol to evict Gov. Rod Tanjuatco. A court order stands in the way.

The ombudsman's actions mirrored the long-term trend of the Arroyo administration to cripple political opposition of the administration. There is now reflect the dark and basic strategy of winning the election.

The suspension order did not a lot to see its effectiveness that cripple Bucay's campaign. Some Team Unity senatorial candidates warned the administration of the public backlash that threatened to pull them down and helped to the unanimous chances of sweeping the Senate election. This forced the administration to reverse.

The suspension is wrong for the administration, labeled by bodies, is worrisome to see the use of partisan powers to bring to bear on the political process. Indeed, my wish for a legal and impartial election is only one small way to ensure that the final solution would choosing to the election. The administration has to stop its playbook already been put away in place. Choosing between a frustrating, given the participation of media in the presidential conversation during the campaign and the 2004 election as preceded by last impropriety telephone conversations with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

A recent Social Weather Stations survey showed that 46 percent of voters think the Arroyo administration is "capable" of fair elections. Only 28 percent believe that the administration is "not capable." The election for a spontaneous explosion exists. It takes only a spark. Like Mahatma Burning, to ignite a political upheaval more destructive than [that].

A missionary's murder

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WEEKS BEFORE AMERICAN PEACE CORPS VOLunteer John Campbell was gunned down in Ba-Ilocos Norte, Filipino Redemptorist priest Fr. Fausto Arsenio Matillano, OFD, was killed in San Rafael, Bocaue, Bulacan, Tuesday.

Like Campbell, a few days, in the blazing heat of media attention and diplomatic pressure for law enforcement officials to locate the suspects in the Campbell killing, and capture a confession, although given the implausibility of the scenario presented by the police, Matillano's killers have not yet been identified or in public that Dominguez could simply be a "failure" for the weekend.

In the meantime, we're left to be impressed to the Macho Gwapo Matillano's killers, the suspected who identified and named the murderers and his accomplices. And reports say the suspects have been seen wandering about, causing the missionary's community to live in fear.

Fr. Oliver Castañeda, OFD, parish priest of Labnigan and therefore Father Peter's superior, an superior and partner in prayer to work in the area, writes that "we are living here under fascist rule." He says the suspects "are known to almost every single [in] their village. It's good that witnesses have been summoned but [those in] their lives have come out that no one from that area [are] not [open] their testimonies."

Peter Matillano in Labnigan knows who the suspects are, but the police have yet to move against them. Father Gerry says the local police should know for sure they don't know where to look. He says the police "have the names of the suspects and the [arrest] will be found. The [only] reason [we] [are] protecting them, "as it has been the practice here," writes Father Gerry.

THERE [are quite] parallels between the Campbell and Matillano cases.

There is, for one, the similarity in interest between the two victims: Campbell was a volunteer [who] who left a secular "empowerment" in her life and sought to fill a void service to the world's poor, particularly to schoolchildren in barangays and college students in language. Fr. Peter Matillano, who was 31 when he was gunned down, hailed from the province of Ilocos in Ilocos and was ordained as a member of the Society of the Divine Word in 2004. His first missionary assignment was in the Philippine Southern Province, and after undergoing a language course in English and Bicolano, he was translated in 2005 as co-pastor of St. Peter and Paul Parish in Labnigan.

The 3500 congregation is populated by priests and brothers from all parts of the world, and while Indonesians make up the biggest number of OFD missionaries, Matillano was not finally until "mission territory" Indonesia, being the world's most populous Muslim nation, in favor of vocations, at least for the 2005 launch, has been on rich, Indonesian missionaries have been increasingly flocked abroad. Father Peter, a Filipino priest whose who turn him as "my sister and writing," was then killed "in the line of exercise duty," preparing to say Father Sunday Mass in an unidentified room in their vicinity.

Br. J. [illegible], Fr. Jerome Alimoos, OFD, provincial superior, said the killing of Father Peters was "an exception [to] to," because "we [are] [in] some service that the old order of life [is] not necessarily [the] [case] [with] [us]."

"We hope that we will not be discouraged in our missionary undertaking but will take the challenge to respond to the journey of the OFD to the [Philippines] as their Gospel is not [will] not be [prejudiced]," he added.

What did Father Matillano mean? There are several theories on why the suspects—identified in town officials and various interviews in Ilocos Norte—have not been arrested. Some say it is because the suspects are [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

A child's wish

LETTERS

MY NAME IS JANE AND I AM 9 YEARS old. I just want to say something. When I was a boy, I was in this morning. I want that many people are getting killed by guns.

Guns are very dangerous.

The law does not allow people to bring guns, and I am the police announcing. Boys catch guns in their houses. Even some many people in news are sad or the worst how guns? This is making me very sad.

I told my mom that, maybe, we can tell the President not to allow the use of guns, so people can live in peace, people who do not need it. I don't want to see old, and nice people getting hurt by, cause of guns or because they are low-tempered.

I want children to grow up with dad-dies and mommies, and not mommies and daddies not to lose their children and for families to be complete.

—JANE PILLERA,
pallera_1@aol.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of issues and glitches by the Inquirer, you may write to Ombudsman Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Sigma and Maconda Streets, City of Makati (or send a fax to this 897-4752, 897-4794, or e-mail ramon.tulfo.ombudsman@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

BDA has no track record, not reliable as US funds conduit for ARMM

THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT is all prone to the $1.45-million IG aid for Mindanao. Jan Nifterdijk, dean of the peace negotiating panel of the MILF has urged the US government not to use the aid as counterinsurgency tool against the separatists there. He has also suggested that as many as possible, the aid should be used to fund the projects of the Bangsa Moro Development Agency (BDA).

There is nothing wrong with Murad's concern and suggestion. But we have reservations about making BDA the conduit of the funds or the implementing arm of US-funded projects. For one, BDA does not have any track record to speak of. Even the Bangsa Moro people cannot ignore the sorry record of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA), which was under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Funds did not find or reach the starving peoples. A large amount of what should have gone to projects that would have alleviated the plight of ARMM's poor was spent to buy luxurious and unnecessary, and in many cases phony, projects.

MILF BDA be any different from SPDA? We have no other proposition that BDA may participate in the implementation of the projects, but we need to know what BDA can do and not doom to guarantee that nothing will go ill-aimed MILF arms group and its separatist agenda.

To allay the fears, it would be good for BDA to include in its composition representatives from Christian and other indigenous communities. The agency then will become a genuine tool for peace-building and development.

On the other hand, the MILF has nothing to complain of. In the towns and provinces where Balikatan Exercises involving US troops were held, no need for counterinsurgency fund has been put up. The projects were all the improving development infrastructure. Of course, Filipino soldiers were related in their conflict against terrorism. Provided the MILF has nothing to do with terrorist activities—which it publicly claims it abhors—then there is no reason at all for its concern.

However, the MILF has already seen how the United States and the European nations work out development aid for the island communities in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago. The United States has also quietly funded, on a few development and livelihood projects for former guerrillas of the Moro National Liberation Front after it signed a peace agreement with the government. Perhaps, it would be more than possible when the guns of war were silent. In some terrorist instances, the aid continues even when some elements of the terrorist organizations are cohabiting.

To this end, and under the full expectation that it is to carry them out and the promised investments in Mindanao, there is only one solution. Between the hammer or, the highway that lead to peace. Stop the incessant, if persistent negotiations, sign the peace pact and huddle down in earnest for the development of the Bangsa Moro people and Mindanao progress will follow.

—EDITORIAL
edpahead@philippinedaily.com

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Jesus was a stern critic of oppressive power

THE EDITORIAL "RETURN THE FAVOR" and the commentary "Hitting the Nail" (Inquirer, 4/5/07) made me reflect more deeply on the realities in our Christian society.

Many Christians focus more attention on the point in the story of the life of Jesus Christ, leaving more on the "triumph" of resurrection, saying His crucifixion and death rather than on His proclamation of God's kingdom and the practice of peace and justice.

As Christians, we should be reminded that for Jesus, "peace, mercy and fidelity" are most important. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you offer mint, dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and compassion and fidelity." (Mt 23:23)

Many of us are not aware that Jesus was a strong critic of the oppressive ruling system, power structures, and politics during His time. He chose to associate readily with the economic, political, cultural and religious elite. He was killed for the powerful principles he spoke up for. He was put to death by the oppressors and killed their ego. I remember Or. Carlos Abesamis, S.J., who said, "But to talk why Jesus was killed is to raise an insipid pain are only of Jesus' death but in this Jesus' story is invisible." The theology and meaning of His death as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins is only our aspect of that story.

On the other hand, in our contemporary society we have already modern martyrs—Christians or non-Christians killed, like Jesus, for serving or witness to a just and noble cause, but unfortunately, despite the undeniable concrete success of the killings, none still "stain the point."

I say and also even Cardinal Rosales has uttered the point, he said the ongoing spree of extrajudicial killings is nothing unlike that of the cases perpetrated by the Marcos dictatorship. The lives of killed coming from more than 800 priest and pastor advocates, including church people, killed under the Arroyo presidency, just a mere tip-spark of blood (!) from militarized "OAS," pro-one martial law repression?

Many of us also miss the point of supporting our Christian faith into action, by proclaiming the good news and denouncing the social ills that affect our people today. Many of our government and church leaders miss the point by refusing to heed the call of conversion, which should include abolishing all those which have no real bourgeois thinking and attitude toward the people. Obviously, many politicians have lost their real Christian identity.

Our Christian faith tells us that Jesus rose from the dead indeed, beyond the passion, there is the promise of resurrection. We can only be joined or can bring a Christian union if we humbly submit our mission to transform God's kingdom and not here on earth.

—BRO. GILBERT S. BELEÑA, O.Carm.
Order of Carmelites,
Justice and Peace
and Integrity of Creation,
beleñaseg@yahoo.com

With FG's recovery better GMA expected

SECRETARY EDUARDO ERMITA HAS PREVIously confessed that how recovered in Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's party lists have baffled even the most observant of political watchdog, and more are promised for those who work for GMA's senatorial candidates (and much more for congressional candidates) that the bunch is not to their liking (read: pro-Erap, pro-former corrupt). The man has the gall to assure that this is but the normal thing to do.

No one normally bereaved during grave in the recovery of her husband from certain death, GMA should be the last person to be the unruly behavior of her political lieutenants and should show some effort to repair the damage done to the electoral process. She should not deny responsibility for the continuing contemptible plans to saddle upon the integrity of the coming elections. The deputies of the Commission on Elections and the military would be rewarding of this.

There were reports that no less than the Papal Nuncio celebrated a thanksgiving Mass at St. Luke's Hospital for the Pro-Gentleman's quick recovery. Pilot executive defiance is would be to the Holy See if GMA becomes a party to most unethical political machinations in the May 14, 2007 elections in the last been suspected of in the 2004 elections. There is very little time to make up for all the damage done to our electoral process. Let no one deliver us from such evil.

—L. P. BALVALIS JR., 12 Balkanar St.,
Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Lapid says Pineda got poll documents

MOMBREAL in Masbate points a picture of an entity, a barrel for counts cop, one rescinded from the host of politics in the province, one of the election-hot spots this coming elections.

Gov says there's plot to rig Pampanga results

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE HEAD OF THE Commission on Elections in Pampanga called as "impossible" the claim by reelectionist Gov. Mark Lapid that one of his five rivals has "illegally acquired" official ballots and election returns (ERs) days ahead of the May 14 elections.

"That's impossible," lawyer Teresa Lambino told the Inquirer on Tuesday.

According to Lambino, the forms have remained in the custody of a Comelec committee appointed by Commissioner Rene Sarmiento. A separate committee oversees the distribution of the forms, he said.

Lambino said perhaps [illegible] has been made known because representatives of national candidates have been authorized to guard the forms starting in their printing stage at the government-owned National Printing Office and up to the time these are taken to the Comelec warehouse in office.

Lambino said Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos has approved the installation of security cameras to monitor the [illegible] area.

The forms, Lambino said, are marked with serial numbers for proper accounting by provincial, town and city treasurers when these are delivered to them a day before the elections.

"Pampanga has not yet received any of its shares of ballots and ERs," Lambino said.

On alert

He said his office continued to be alert for any election-related irregularities.

Lapid, 28, expressed alarm about the alleged anomaly through a press statement on Monday.

"The information starting out camp is that those documents were purchased at a substantial cost from [illegible] sources," he said.

There, Lapid said, "could be used to rig the elections to the prejudice."

"With the collusion of the chairmen and members of the board of election inspectors, those ballots could easily be stuffed into the ballot boxes, especially when there are no watchers from the opposing camps at the time of the opening of the ballot boxes right before the voting starts," he said.

On the other hand, he said, the "illegally obtained ERs could also be used to switch the authentic copies before the municipal canvassing starts."

"This could be done while the ERs transport the ERs from the polling places to the sites of the canvassing, which are usually at the municipal hall," Lapid said.

No replies

Lapid said his chief campaigner, Fidel Severino, did not reply to Inquirer calls to ask them to name the gubernatorial candidate he believed the supposed scam.

Another problem is the Lapid camp identified that, in Sir Board Member Lilia Pineda.

Reached by phone, Pineda denied Lapid's claims as "malicious." "How can I do that when I am not the one in power? He and his father [Sen. Manuel Lapid] are the ones in power. They're with the dominant political party. They have all the means to win," she said.

Pineda said she suspected that the Lapids were "looking to create a scenario that in the event there is election cheating, they would blame it on me."

The two are considered front runners in the gubernatorial race, but the entry of Ms. Ed Pueblo has brought an alternative to what some said were candidates tainted with charges of corruption and illegal gambling.

Dr. Pueblo is also campaign with the help of many volunteers, among them four of the country's most prominent election lawyers. Ernesto Ordoñez, Inquirer Central Luzon

Masbate gov faces disqualification case

THE CAMPAIGN FOR ANOTHER term in Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho is pre-D often a disqualification case was filed against him for alleged perjury in filing his certificate of candidacy.

Kho was accused of material misrepresentation under oath in his certificate of candidacy as the record of his application for transfer of registration revealed that it was filed on June 21, 2006, or 46 days short of the one year required by the Constitution for congressional candidacies.

Kho's certificate of candidacy will only meet the one year requirement on June 29, 2007.

Complainant Leandro Fenderando, of Bapor, Masbate City, said Governor Kho clearly committed material misrepresentation in his certificate of candidacy when he stated that he is a resident of Brgy. 22 Mabini Street, Poblacion, Mandaon, Masbate.

Records of the municipal transportation, Kho was able to accomplish engineer as a voter of Precinct No. 0003A, Barangay Bitaogan, Mandaon, Masbate, Fenderando said.

Two witnesses, Roberto V. Bolotaio and Rolando M. Barqueros, both residents since birth of Barangay Poblacion, Mandaon, Masbate, submitted sworn affidavits that "Governor Kho is not a resident and a qualified voter in their barangay."

In separate sworn affidavits, Serrano and Barqueros declared that being longtime residents of Barangay Poblacion, they personally know all residents in that barangays, even their family trees.

They knew all occupants of a building he [illegible] owned by [illegible] Mesa where Governor Kho claimed to be a resident and that they have never seen Governor Kho to be occupying any of the rooms of the said building.

They declared that Governor Kho or his family "is not and has never been physically present in our Barangay [illegible] place which would qualify him to be one of our barangay voters."

Bets' bodyguards told to limit selves to securing candidates

CABANATUAN CITY—POLICE OFficials in Nueva Ecija have started implementing strict security measures to ensure a peaceful and orderly conduct of elections on Monday, a day after two have been tucked by election violence this year.

Senior Supt. Alfredo Cabalza, Task Force Nueva Ecija commander, said only members of candidates and officials in the province have been ordered to give protection to people they have been assigned to.

They should not heed any order from people other than those to which their checkpoints or to arrest somebody," Cabalza told the Inquirer.

His statement was significant as it was issued after April 25 shootout in Jaen town, wherein two people were killed and 12 others were wounded, showed that the security forces of Rep. Rodolfo Antonino and town mayoralty candidate Antonio Sagudato exchanged fires.

"I already intimidated to each other all the policemen and soldiers who are being assigned as security details of candidates," Cabalza said.

"I told them to amend friendly gestures to one another whenever they meet each other on the road. This time, friction among them will be avoided," he said.

He said he also ordered them not to visit their firearms to civilian aides, relatives of candidates or to the candidates themselves as these people "use the firearms to be trigger happy."

Cabalza, deputy regional police director for operations of the Central Luzon police, said additional policemen and soldiers were assigned in Nueva Ecija to prevent the recurrence of incidents of election-related violence.

"We have also in our disposal an armed personnel carriers (APC) which are always ready to respond to any eventuality," he said.

Cabalza, however, said the additional troops would be pulled out after the elections.

Senior Supt. Isabelo Bolano, provincial police director, said at least 300 soldiers would be sent to 16 of the province's 22 towns to ensure a peaceful conduct of the elections.

Police said additional gunmen, some troops are needed in several towns where tension political rivalries were noted.

In Cabanatuan town, an Army soldier was killed following a shootout between a group of soldiers and the group of Bryan Samson candidate Rodolfo Villanueva Jr.

On Saturday, police recovered two fragmentation grenades in the headquarters of a candidate in San Mateo town in Bulacan.

In Isabela, a barangay captain and his companion in Quezon town were wounded when two unidentified men shot them in Barangay Aurora on Saturday while they were on their way home from a political rally.

Supt. Melchor Bonoan, Quezon police chief, said human beings, village chief of Aurora, who is [illegible] candidate in the Cagayan Valley Medical Center in Tuguegarao City.

His companion, John Mangaoy, was taken to the QCI Hospital in Quezon.

In Aritao, a barangay councilman in Cagayan province was found dead inside a school compound in the town on Tuesday morning. Jonathan Bugay and Gerardo Rivas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Villamor Visaya Jr. and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Sama-sama nating labanan ang krimen, kahirapan at katiwalian tungo sa maunlad at mapayapang Manila

"THE LAW APPLIES TO ALL... OTHERWISE, NONE AT ALL"

Abalos on Abra: What else to do?

BAGUIO CITY—COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS Chair Benjamin Abalos complained that he was helpless in the face of continuing violence in Abra, but election officials said it did not mean they had given up on the province.

Abalos on Monday said he no longer knew how to proceed with political violence surrounding Abra.

"What else do you want us to do?" he told reporters, noting it was up to Abra officials and residents to change their values to stop the spate of violence.

The latest murder case involved an campaign supporter of Lagayan Bilmel Cecilia Luna, who is facing Gov. Vicente Valera in the fight for the lone congressional district race in the province.

Luna has accused Valera of involvement in the attack but the governor has denied this, saying his critics have found links the sound engineer to any political preach in the province.

Valera instead blamed his political rivals, including Luna, for the increasing incidences of violence in the province.

Abra's candidates have signed a peace covenant for the May 14 elections.

Last year, 68 of the incumbent officials there were implicated in a report filed by a government team that validated an Inquirer report that many local officials were maintaining armed bodyguards and armalites.

Lawyer Jose Bagasao, Abra election supervisor, said Comelec could try peace covenant approaches to curb violence by using the peace covenant to threaten erring candidates with disqualification for violating these covenants, "as we must find other ways of stopping them," Bagasao said.

He said Abalos was simply using his frustration. "The Comelec will continue to supervise the Abra elections," he said.

Bagasao said Commissioner Romeo Brawner, who supervised Abra before Abalos took over as Comelec officer in charge, formed an oversight commission that administers the assignment of police election soldiers to Abra.

Bagasao said the Comelec could widen the scope of this oversight group to include erring candidates.

In Cabanatuan City, Director General Oscar Calderon, chief of the Philippine National Police, said the PNP would deploy more policemen to Abra to ensure a peaceful conduct of the elections.

"We will show to the public that the presence of the police is that presence is not only continuing but is further strengthening," Calderon said.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Jonathan Hicap, Inquirer Central Luzon

SURVIVOR: Herminia Ryah recounts the horror of the ambush on a group of supporters of Lagayan Mayor Cecilia Luna.

Church-based group announces backing for Mabulo campaign

SAN FERNANDO, CAMARINES Sur—A Church-based group announced it was supporting the candidacy of one of its members, Jolito Mabulo, in preparation of the first district of Camarines Sur against one of the sons of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a statement, the Christian Life Centered-ist of the Philippines (CLCP) said it was supporting Mabulo as an expression of "its deep desire to support men and women like him—committed, dedicated, honest, creative, intelligent and effective individuals and politicians."

The CLCP is part of a worldwide association of christian men and women, adult and youth from all social conditions.

It's a community animated by the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola and inspired by the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"The CLCP firmly stands behind Mabulo's campaign and the approach he will take as a representative," the group said in a statement.

"It is important that we promote truly good candidates," the group added.

God's work

"It is doing Mabulo's work for the authentic development of all in San Fernando that gives us hope for a better future for the First district of Camarines Sur," said the group.

"Our men among us has chosen, in his great risk and sacrifice, to continue sharing Christ's vision in the field of politics."

"The monopoly of political power ... continues to be the cause of our much injustice and violence," said the group.

Charlene Tan, 24, a member of the CLCP said she was positive signs in people who have been touched by Mabulo's campaign.

Tan, however, said she also felt sorry for those who had already been corrupted by traditional politics.

"This lady I met asked me if we also had giveaways. I was totally taken off the ground. It was dishearteningly. She was not at all that poor," she said, recalling an encounter in one of the group's outreach.

But she said in the group's campaign outlines for Mabulo, people were beginning to see the need for change.

For the first time in 41 years in the Philippines, the CLCP fielded its bets in politics for Mabulo.

MABULO's church challenge: critiques of his supporters describe as the high and mighty. His campaign has drawn volunteers who's made hopeful cheaps could some without the use of the three Gs—guns, guts and gold.

Mabulo

Patrick Lim, 24, a graduate of Development Studies at the Ateneo de Manila University and a master in public policy at National University of Singapore, recalled how Mabulo explained his motive in running before CLCP members in a retreat in February.

"Bejoe Abang (Mabulo) shared his situation that he is up against formidable political forces that included Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr., congressman Luis R. Villafuerte, Dato Arroyo and some incumbent mayors of the first district of Camarines Sur," Lim said.

"He said he felt it would be a calling to stand up against entrenched politicians who always call the shots but that he felt free and unconditional in running for congressman," he added.

Following an announcement by Andaya that all the mayors in the first district of Camarines Sur were solidly behind Imee's bid, the small-town mayor broke opposition.

With the CLCP behind him, Mabulo, is managing the congressional race with relatively modest bets.

An American priest, Fr. Robert Regan, S.J., 74, who organized the CLCP here in 1969 and inspired the mayor to join the Catholic formation while he was studying at Ateneo de Naga College (now university), and he dropped by to lend support. *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Local issues, not GMA power, hound bets

WILFINA

LUNA

MAGUDO

ESPINO

LIM

AGBAYANI

LAPID

COJUANGCO

MARCOS JR.

PIMENTEL

WHILE THE MAY 14 ELECTIONS have been dubbed as the test of the Arroyo administration's political strength through the senatorial and congressional races, voters in the provinces have turned to political aspirants to solve local problems.

The following are the issues that surfaced during the campaign for local posts in Northern and Central Luzon and which voters wanted addressed by the officials that they would put into office on May 14:

Cordillera

Agriculture, peace and order, infrastructure development, illegal logging and tourism are among the key issues that candidates in the Cordillera would have to address.

In Benguet, the future of the local vegetable industry under a free trade system remained a strong rallying point for the plethora of the province's candidates.

The candidates, however, watered most on what the farmers wanted from the beginning—that there should be no vegetable importation even if the country is a World Trade Organization member.

Reasoning that the farmers would not vote for them, most candidates, however, have not explained that vegetable imports are inevitable under a free trade system.

Other issues raised during the campaign period in Benguet, however, deserved attention. The revenue of all Benguet municipalities the country signed with other countries to admit impact on the lands of vegetables. The government's policy of welcoming the exploitation of new mine sites and the rehabilitation of abandoned mining areas despite strong opposition from indigenous peoples; and protection of Benguet's forest and watershed resources from siltation, expanding vegetation and erosion.

In Mts. residents and candidates have voiced concern over the deteriorating peace and order condition in the province due to intense political rivalry and the presence of private armies.

Development in Mts. has been stalled because major infrastructure projects, like bridges, and paved roads have yet to be completed.

Ifugao voters wanted criminality and peace and order addressed. The province also needed support in marketing its agricultural produce, primarily its organic rice.

Baguio's key problem is land. Real estate prices in the city are high because most of the lands are considered public reservations, while the remaining portions available for housing are distributed using the antiquated land grant system.

The resulting overpopulation has helped escalate pollution and even pollution because of the increase in motor vehicles traversing the downtown areas.

Much of the Cordillera relies on tourist arrivals, which are often diverted due to competing regions whenever negative reports arise about choice destinations in the region.

Local governments are looking for ways to stabilize the local economies to survive the inherent instability of their tourism programs.

In Mt. Province, voters are very worried about the fragility of their "peace zones" as it was both the military and the insurgents have agreed to avoid during conflicts.

Local governments have been unable to control the skies, but unruly, encroachment of the rebellion into populated areas.

Ilocos

In Ilocos Norte, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting organized the candidates' forum to provide a venue for candidates to articulate various issues that matter on the electorate.

Among Bishop Sergio Utleg said the May 14 elections are not about choosing between good and evil but choosing the better aspirant over the good candidates.

Members of a panel organized by the PPCRV asked the candidates' positions on various issues ranging from the operations of "jueteng," tourism, solid waste management to their programs for the poor.

Candidates said they want capitalize on the booming Ilocos tourism industry to attract more investments.

Local candidates said funds from the tobacco excise tax must be given directly to the farmers instead of being channeled to the city or provincial government that normally decides on the manner of allocation and on what projects the funds should be used.

In Pangasinan, where residents depend on agriculture and the Lingayen Gulf's marine resources for their livelihood, the major election issues are reserves support to rehabilitate the province's agriculture systems and promotion of the province's tourism.

Pangasinan has potential to attract tourists but facilities such as hotels are scarce. An airport will also boost tourism in the province.

The province's agricultural, commercial and residential areas suffer yearly from flooding. While flooding in the Agno River basin had been minimized with the construction of the San Roque multipurpose dam in San Manuel town, flooding along the basins of Binalatan Bridge in central Pangasinan town and Dagupan City has yet to be addressed.

Employment is in short supply in Pangasinan, thus residents must have access to livelihood programs, especially on food processing and maintaining. Products such as mangoes and watermelon are usually abundant during harvest and summer season but prices go down as farmers are overwhelmed by the supply. If processing plants are available, they will have ready market and prices may be controlled.

In La Union, voters wanted candidates to address peace and order in some parts of the province and incumbent administration to improve the health care system.

In Ilocos Sur, provincial candidates are pushing for the creation of a better market for the province's products, especially tobacco, and provide livelihood opportunities in tourism-related activities and agriculture.

Among the agriculture issues in central La Union are a price investment area should be harnessed to address the problem of unemployment. Voters also wanted the revival of the tourism industry to generate jobs and push the province among major tourist destinations in the country.

Cagayan Valley

In Nueva Vizcaya, voters are watching the positions of candidates on the planned large-scale mining projects of Australian-Philippines Mining Inc. (APMI) in Didipio town and MPI, Philippines Inc. in Quezon town, both of which are expected to generate billions of pesos in taxes and employment for the national government.

Officials, according to voters and local leaders, should address alleged land anomalies in the province, mainly finding who was responsible for the alleged misuse of more than P200 million in road projects given to the California Company, the American firm that operates the Casecnan multipurpose irrigation and power project.

Candidates should find ways to maximize the farming potentials of the province, through the local government-owned Nueva Vizcaya agricultural terminal, whose operations have been hampered by political conflicts.

In Isabela, electoral issues facing candidates are agriculture, education and health support.

Politicos vowed more support to irrigation facilities, and ensuring water supply to the province's 199,250 farmers, police Norma.

Voters wanted the hiring of additional teachers in remote villages and the opening of more government hospitals and clinics.

In Cagayan, voters wanted candidates to duplicate the positive and good gain that attended the construction of the Tuguegarao Town Center and the hosting of supposedly overpriced equipment by the provincial government.

VISIBLE Inspection is one of the main issues candidates from the Cordillera have to address. EDJANO

Central Luzon

Bonggo Almeda, Central Luzon director of the National Economic and Development Authority said issues are more distinct in the campaign of senatorial candidates. Among these are unemployment, education, poverty and housing.

In Pampanga, Mercado said the major issues are good governance and business development. "Some are out to promotional in the local areas," he said.

In Bataan, the Catholic Archdiocese of Bataan assisted candidates to present concrete programs on issues like environment, health and employment.

In Bataan, the growing problems of illegal fishing and illegal logging in most coastal and upland towns have become alarming.

The Bataan police have arrested and charged illegal fishers for illegal activities have persisted despite an intensified campaign launched by the provincial government. Illegal logging activities have been noted in the mountainous villages in the towns of Ibaan, Morong and Mariveles.

In Bulacan, residents wanted the mining activities in the Bulacan River Regional Park addressed while farmers wanted to be assured of a continuous supply of irrigation water from the Angat Dam.

In Nueva Ecija, several voters wanted a change in the political leadership in a province ruled by political families like the Joson, Umali, Velayos, Villarosa and Abaracos. Three politicians have at least members of their respective families holding elective posts.

The province has inadequate low cost post-harvest facilities for rice farmers and lack of "logistical" centers handling postcrop requirements and other agricultural products.

Despite are also clamoring for the establishment of farmers in the province to avail its heavy reliance on agriculture. They wanted infrastructure development and educational and health assistance to be addressed by candidates.

With the recent spate of elections related violence in the province, Nueva Ecijans also want an improved peace and order condition.

In Tarlac, the battle for the hearts and minds of voters tugs between gubernatorial candidates Jose Cojuangco Jr. and Victor Yap, with the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita as the main electoral issue.

Cojuangco and Yap have brought the labor and agrarian issues inside the sugar estate, one of the biggest employers in the province, in their campaign. Reports from Cristina Arradaza, Leonelo Bellen Jr., Hanny Lacsamana, Yolanda Estella Pineda, Delmar Cariño, Hazyen Cabrera, Frank Cimatu, Desiree Cabais, Eduardo Cobles, Filomar Viaya Jr., Melvin Esteves, Russell Arador, Anselmo Roque, Carmela Reyes, Sweetie Oreja and Greg Rufo.cion

SIGAW NAMING MANGGAGAWA!
Sama-sama tayo
at MAGKAISA sa
TEAM UNITY
ng
Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
para sa:
• Makahulugang Demokrasya,
• Maunlad na Ekonomiya,
• Matatag na Hanapbuhay, at
• Manggagawang Sagana

VICTORINO ISLAW
National President
Philippine Transport and General Workers Organization (PTGWO)

ALAIN MONTANO
National President
Federation of Free Workers (FFW)

ROMEO FOCUEN DIEON, JR.
National President
All Workers Alliance Trade Unions (AWATU)

VLADIMIR TUPAZ
National President
Trade Unions of the Philippines and Allied Services (TUPAS)

ANSELMO CALEDERON
National President
Alliance of Filipino Workers (AFW)

JOSE LAMAS, JR.
National President
National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE)

REGINALD KICCHERINO
National Vice President
National Association of Trade Unions (NATU)

GREGORIO DEL PRADO
National Vice President
Pamguhin Organization of Labor Unions (POLU)

Creation inspires painter

TICOTTSE Chanee Paris

PAINTER TICOTTSE Chanee-Paris likes to surround herself with plants and flowers, and she has made them, God's creations, the subject of her first solo exhibit recently at the Baguio-Mt. Provinces Museum on Gov. Pack Road in Baguio City. The show also featured an art clinic sponsored by Hacia.

The paintings featured a combination of common species and wild ones like roses, lilies, orchids and dahlias. The title of the show, "Consider the Lilies," was taken from a biblical passage which extolled the lilies for neither toiling nor spinning but looking glorious nonetheless.

Pack retired when she reached 62 as an adult she sought the help of several art teachers as she could go in depth into painting. She was inspired by the sight of flowers that Baguio has to show forth.

When she chose flowers as her subjects, she became a realistic painter who continued to try to express the beauty of creation. She preferred to be realistic in her depiction of flowers because she wanted to capture how living things looked like. She said flowers growing along sidewalks, she said, are living works of art.

She said her paintings are spiritual by nature and divide her series of floral paintings, she plans to work on fruits, vegetables, landscapes and portraits.

Katrina Cabanelia and Rona Grin

Army tied to abduction of Burgos son

Front page 4

legal logging before the local courts in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

De Leon said the vehicle had been impounded at the headquarters of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Cutcut first as part of a working arrangement between the 56IB and the Army.

Vehicle still impounded

"Our records show that the XXT jeep with license plate No. UH 194 remains impounded at the 56th IB headquarters based in Barangay Cutcut," he said in a statement.

Witnesses said that Burgos, 36, was dragged by unidentified men into a Toyota Revo with Plate No. TAB 194 from the Ever Gotesco mall in Quezon City on April 28. He has been missing since then.

Burgos, an agriculturist, had been giving technical training to members of the Mamamayang Magbubukid ng Bulacan, the local chapter of the left-wing Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas since 1990.

De Leon said he had formed a task force to verify the statement of the vehicle and coordinate with Col. Noel G. Clement, commanding officer of the 56th IB.

The Army promotion officers in Bulacan are under strict instructions to assist the Philippine Army in every possible way to shed light on the issue," he said.

Gov't has not done enough

Bishop Deogracias Iniguez Jr. of the Diocese of Caloocan yesterday lamented that the government had not taken concrete steps to find Burgos.

"The government is denying involvement but at the same time, they're not doing anything," he said at a press forum in Quezon City.

The disappearance, he added, was a "clear example of repression, a phenomenon that is repressing the citizens and their rights to exercise to push its own agenda."

JONAH BURGOS: Missing now for 10 days

Archbishop Soc Jobet Arroyo yesterday also assailed the military for "not doing enough" in looking for the young Burgos.

"It is not enough that the [retired Marines] say they do not have anything to do [with the kidnapping]. They should really look at who cheated [Jonah]," said Arroyo at the weekly Eraption at Senada.

Progressives in the minority

"What lawyers had more to do much is the fact that peaceful endeavors are being disheartened. They are not armed rebels, they are not waging an armed struggle. They are just reformists," said Arroyo.

But Arroyo did not go on the as to blame the military for Burgos' disappearance. "There are very many progressive elements within the Armed Forces, but they are in the minority," said Arroyo.

He said it was "tragic" that the "acts of a few bad soldiers, incorrigible, despicable soldiers, sometimes taint the entire Armed Forces."

Arroyo said that he counsel the public from condemning the entire military establishment because "they also fight, they give up their lives defending us."

But he said the military should start cleaning itself of the negative perception "so that all the things, whatever they've sinned with, will be set aside." With a report from AJG/C. Calma; images fr.

Binay counterattack directed at Ombudsman

Front page 4

the complaint and allowing him to file a counter-affidavit.

Lotis, a smiling Binay told reporters that by the time the 10-day period, which the Ombudsman gave him to file his reply has elapsed, he would have already been "pronounced" the winner in Makati.

The United Opposition (UNO) leader, who on his own political barometer but resoundingly thrashed President Macapagal-Arroyo for the sympathy vote he claimed to have gained, even predicted that his predecessor could count an early victory days after the May 14 elections.

Verifying only now

Binay and his lawyer began citing the Ombudsman's own rules of procedure after graft investigator Raven Lopez, a member of the ad-hoc fact-finding committee that is handling the case, admitted that they have not yet verified the allegations of the complaint together with supporting documents submitted by Binay's accuser, former Makati City Councilor Oscar Bay.

Bay alleged that City Hall, under Binay's watch, employed "ghost employees"—farmers and fishers dropped from the payroll in 2002 but who continued to receive salaries from 2004 to 2005 through the Office of the Mayor.

"You mean you are confirming [the complaint] only now and not you already had me suspended?" Binay said, addressing Lopez, who sat on the panel headed by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro.

Binay's lawyer, Emmanuel Tomas, quoting provisions of Republic Act No. 6770 (Ombudsman's Act of 1989), argued that he first should have the formal charges of the complaint and affidavit to file a counter-affidavit before going to the "third stage," referring to the hearing.

"You should have waited for an answer," Tomas said.

After the heated exchange among Binay, Tomas and Lopez, Casimiro—who disarmed yesterday's proceedings as a "preliminary conference"—maintained that his panel had found Bay's complaint "sufficient in form and substance" and that the assessment served as the basis for the suspension order issued on May 3.

Only he said that "I was suspended without [the Ombudsman] spending time first to ask the complainant and the witnesses," he said in Filipino.

Evidence of guilt strong

"Looks like this is a new ball game, but I have accepted that this is happening in government especially with me being the president of UNO. They [the administration] will do all they can to destroy me and to make me lose the election," he said.

Casimiro, in a post-hearing interview, defended the recent taken by his panel, saying the "only requirements" for a suspension order like that slapped on Binay were for "the evidence of guilt to be strong" and for the charges to be "[in]formerly grave misconduct and gross neglect of duty."

"Preventive suspension is not a penalty," he said, but Binay's "continued presence in office might jeopardize the investigation. We are not punishing the [author in question] here."

Binay who attended the hearing but did not participate in the discussion, said it was expected of Binay to engage in "grandstanding" during the proceedings.

The mayor, he said, was rightfully suspended "even without motion, recommend him from using his influence to scare off witnesses or from concealing documents."

An interim conservatory, accompanied by police officers, said he served the suspension order on Binay on Friday.

Two days before, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (Bir) the city government's bank accounts and the personal accounts of Binay and Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado as part of its efforts to recover unpaid taxes.

Bank objections, indicating from some administrative officials, Binay's withdrawn. Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno ordered on Sunday Binay's suspension until after the elections. Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag also lifted the garnishment order on all but one of the city's bank accounts.

Revenue target

The Bir said it was simply doing its job to ensure it meets the down-top target of collecting P714.45 billion in taxes this year.

"Whether someone is identified with the opposition or of administration doesn't matter. You are, we have a very high collection target, and as one must collect," said Bir Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag.

Buñag reiterated that the Bir was not going after the personal accounts of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, but only those of the local government.

Puno said the Bir earlier from P1.1 billion of the Makati City government's accounts in several banks in Makati City, but freed almost half of the amount on Monday.

The Bir officials said the local government's current liabilities only amounted to about P600 million. Puno said the order of garnishment for some P600 million in bank accounts remained.

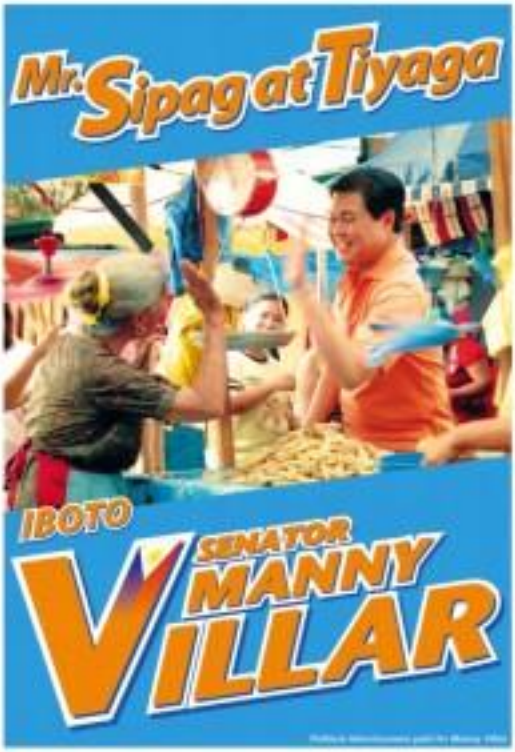
Puno said the Makati City government had refused to pay its obligations despite reminders by the Bir.

Partial payment

He confirmed the Makati City government's claim that it recently paid P200 million, but stressed that the amount was only partial payment for its liabilities.

Puno said the estimated P600 million in unpaid taxes covered the taxable periods 1999, 2000 and 2001. The amount consisted of unpaid withholding taxes, and value-added and income taxes.

The withholding taxes are made up of taxes withheld from the income of city employees, contractors and suppliers, according to Puno. The unpaid income taxes and the VAT were those arising from the city's income from its parking lots.



Palace execs, Mike A's sis in party-list groups

From page A1

• Marilou Arroyo, sister of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo. Marilou Arroyo is campaigning for her in Iloilo.

Ang Kasangga is a government-funded micro-financing agency for small and medium enterprises that runs spin-off NGOs to pass-list groups.

"We've gotten reports from our supporters that ang Kasangga had been going around telling people libreng-libre ang ayuda nasa inyo. We believe that the will undermine the sense of unity of the nominees in the end," Pontiveros said.

Sheryl Gonzalez-Ace, daughter of Eliseo Gonzalez, chair of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. She is the No. 1 nominee of Bigkis.

Akesh Tanseco, daughter of party-list rep. Arnulf Tanseco of Ang Lahing Pagkakaisa Migrante (ALPI). Representative Arnulf is the group's No. 1 nominee. Other nominees are Nanas Manufacturing Tomas Cail, wife Janeth Tolentino and Lamar Fontanos.

• Jaboulah Hasguerra, mother of party-list rep. Lutgardo Hasguerra of the Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE). The congressman is the first nominee of AVE and the mother is the third nominee. The Hasguerras are relatives of the late Zamboanga mayor BHP JR, according to Gonzalez.

• Kenneth Gatchalian, brother of Valenzuela Rep. Sherwin Gatchalian. He is the third nominee of Anak para sa Kinabukasan.

Milory's horse trainer

Among the 499 nominees in 91 party-list groups released on Friday by the Comelec after it ran out of time to do so before the Court can disqualify and other government officials. Some police and military officials, and at least two persons who are facing charges in court and one nominee who died.

They include the following:

• Jinnafel A. Cadelo, Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's undersecretary for appointments. He leads the list of nominees of Alliance of Non-Traditional Voters (ANTV).

Cadelo, a lawyer, served as assistant executive secretary to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. A graduate of the Ateneo Law School, Cadelo is a member of the Drapa, the fraternity of Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The ANTV's second nominee, Quintus G. de la Torre, was named as Philippine National Police (PNP) director for Central Luzon following the violent dispersal of a picket at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac in November 2004.

De la Torre, during the take-over, placed Dela Torre as PNP regional director in Central Luzon. Gilang is a nominee for LIKE MAS Gilang's fellow nominee is diplomat F. Cuanico, a retired military official, who once served as chief of the Intelligence Division on Patay Island.

• Marcelo Fortaleza II, assistant secretary of the Office for Electoral Affairs of the Office of the President. He is the first nominee of Agbayani Tatlong Bersano Inc. (Agbayani). The group's second nominee, Samuel S. Torres, is an accredited voter-taxpayer of the PNP.

• Ramon Jesus Paje, former undersecretary for power and rules. He is the first nominee for Abay Pinoy. DPWH Retired Inc. (APOI). A retired general, Rodolfo Garcia is the head of the DPWH or Civil Defense or the defense department.

• Ruben R. Flores, executive director of the Philippine Public Safety College, one of the agencies under The Department of Interior and Local Government. He is the second nominee for the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy, an anti-communist group. Flores is headed by Brigadier Gen. Dagohoy Capanzana.

• Edgardo C. Manda, director of the Laguna Lake Development Authority. He is the second nominee of Alliance of Concerned Teachers. The group's first nominee, Rodel Sokkiman, is a former trustee of a town in Cotabato while its fourth nominee is Antonio Herman C. Almeda, a former trustee for Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the husband of the President.

• Nilo Rivarez Jr., a brother of Counter-Communism Bonnie Rivarez, is the first nominee of Ab-Kasosyo Bonnies Is Med on Health. It is an affiliate of Bonnie for nomination, but the Comelec's law department has yet to act on this, officials said.

No track record

"What track record can they show?" Pontiveros, nominee of Sambalan, said of Marcos-Santiago II and Bonnie Pangalangan.

"Are they representing the interests and welfare of a political class?" Pontiveros asked.

The Japanese tried to get his comment, but Secretary Ermita's phone did not answer calls or text messages.

Bautista said the relatives of government officials were using the party-list system as a backdoor entry to Congress.

People's Reform Party

While the party-list law does not bar marginalized groups from tapping relatives to be their nominees, Bautista said the law is supposed to allow those coming from their ranks, according to Bautista.

Steve Quarantino, ABC convenor, said that the young Bautista was a leader of the former's People's Reform Party (PRP), which has been pushing for the retirement of the Congressmen to agree to Bautista's resignation.

PRP has been advocating against an election. That is why Bautista may be denied have a background to agitate reform," Quarantino said of the young Bautista.

By picking the young Santiago as the 1-Ang Kasangga nominee, it is said the nominee's support in the proposed CARP extension beyond 2008. Quarantino admitted.

ABC's four other nominees—Oscar D. Francisco, Rodel B. Lorenzana, Rodolfo P. Pesquera and Isidro A. Sandoval—have deny for-ligtimate agrarian reform, according to Sandoval.

Tracking business

Bautista noted that the Comelec is finally now and supervising a more regulated survey.

Besides being a thriving family enterprise, SOS Development Bank noted, was never a marginalized group representing the interests of the poor, Bautista said.

The family owns a gas station and trucking business in Iloilo.

Bautista said it would have been prudent for the Comelec to have barred the list of questionable nominees from the ballot for the party-list system of votes in 2001.

That was 10 of the 162 party-list groups were disqualified, disabled from having 6.6 million votes.

To stop proclamation

Bautista said that if any of the nominees of 48 list gained a seat in the House, Sambalan would like to stop the proclamation of nominees found on the eight guidelines issued by the Supreme Court. (See side bar.)

"They said any seats 'may' jumping. Let's just stick to them," he said. "But it would be better if the people themselves file the case. The more cases, the better."

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday acknowledged that the poll body had been late in accrediting party-list organizations, explaining that election commissioners could be "hello-ed" by the groups' advocacy.

"I would say that members (Comelec) were fraternal," Abalos told reporters when asked if he thought the Comelec was fraternal in its assessment of the many petitioned groups seeking representation in the House.

It was earlier reported that Associate Mehol, elder brother of the Comelec chair, was the second nominee of Kapatiran Party, a group close to the dynasty.

Abalos said he himself was considering how some of the groups were claiming to be marginalized or underrepresented.

PPJ supporters

He took note of the supporters of vice law since Fernando. But Abalos insisted their group Pilipinos for Peace, Justice and Progress Movement (PPJPM), as well as the Pinoys Enabling Pioneers (PEP) Coalition.

"These supporters of Fernando Poe Jr. (as they) will continue the fight of (late) Fernando Poe Jr. and that I am against these people of PPJ. What I am saying is what sector are they representing? And the victims of OAF Ecology Association (Victims)? He has no, what marginalized sector are they?" Abalos said.

Abalos noted that questions of whether a party-list group was indeed a marginalized sector or not have been resolved in several occasions for the cancellation of their accreditation.

Not for opposition only

He said it seemed that some voters were using the party-list system to be party-list opposition groups.

"If you talk in favor of the government you can no longer be a party-list organization. It's not supposed to be. The law is not for the opposition alone, it is also open for those under-represented and the marginalized sectors of our society," Abalos said.

Abalos also said he mentioned he wants end public utility vehicle drivers and conductors.

Grounds for disqualification of party-list group

THE GROUNDS FOR DISqualification of a party-list group, according to Comelec, are the following:

• It is a religious sect or denomination, organization or association organized for religious purposes.

• It advocates violence or unlawful means to seek its goal.

• It is a foreign party or its subordinate.

• It is receiving support from any foreign government, foreign political party, foundation, organization, whether directly or through any of its officers or members or indirectly through third parties for partisan election purposes.

• It violates or fails to comply with laws, rules or regulations relating to elections.

• It declares untruthful statements in its petition.

• It has ceased to exist for at least one year, or

• It fails to participate in the last two preceding elections or fails to obtain at least 2 percent of the votes cast under the party-list system in the two preceding elections for the constituency in which it has registered. TJ Burgonio

MEMBERS of the Partido ng Manggagawa protest inside one of several notable party-list groups to a rally in front of the Comelec office in Manila. AFP

Ex-AFP brass bare 'Oplan Mercury Rising' to rig May 14 polls

From page A1

Of the three candidates named, only Zubiri (along with TU candidates Johnr Arroyo, Edgardo Angara and Ralph Recto) has backed talks the Manning Corp. to both the Senate Subcommittee and Public Accountants.

"In this regard, the Jabalcinos officers in the said report are assured that we and our people will stand behind every action taken by the Comelec," Aparri said.

He added: "Cheating will take place and we will try to stop it. If we can't have it, then we will bring the issue back to the people. What do you want us to do?"

Roll call

Reader, Bote is made up of Bagong Bataan-an Magdalo, Bedrother of Bohol Commissioner Rene Gumatad. Personnel for Reveal, Philippine Guardian Brotherhood Inc., Young Islamic Soldiers with Armor and Retired Military Police for Solidarity (Mapsol), Citizens for Truth, Integrity, Genuine Peace in Reform and Soldiers and Police for Peace and Progress.

It is seeking to align itself with the British Parliament Council for Development Policing and Regional Outpost Movement for Free Elections to monitor the conduct of the polls from the precinct level to the national canvassing.

The following provisions are the supposed targets for massive cheating: Bicol Tau Pilipinas, Committee Nuts, Cebu, Belief, Iloilo, Eastern Samar, Lanao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Shariff Kabunsuan.

The regions supposedly identified for fraud operations are Central Visayas, Davao, Caraga and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The identified areas are said to have more than 14.7 million registered voters.

Aparri said Barzaga-Ruiz's intelligence network had yet to identify who gave the order to concoct fraud.

"The shooting operation machine) up to the highest level in those areas mentioned. There was an intention of the Comelec commissioners," he said.

'Huge cash incentives'

Barzaga-Ruiz said field government and Commission on Elections officials had been "offered huge cash incentives" to deliver a 12-0 win for Team Unity.

"An added bonus is promised if 60 Genuine Opposition candidates than Peter Cayetano gets as votes," Aparri said.

He said Barzaga-Ruiz had also been offered a substantial fund to run (but the office of Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. The AFP chief of staff, had issued verbal instructions to all military commanders to execute a 12-0 TU win, especially in the Mindanao areas where the canvassing returns will be conducted.

"We also have reports coming from Tarlac, Samar, and Davao Oriental that during the elections, Mayor Ruiz is personally involved in the Comelec's Election Automation Law School, Candidate is a member of the Drapa, the fraternity of Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The AFC's second nominee, Quintus G. de la Torre, was named as Philippine National Police (PNP) director for Central Luzon following the violent dispersal of a picket at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac in November 2004.

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• Marcelo Fortaleza II, assistant secretary of the Office for Electoral Affairs of the Office of the President. He is the first nominee of Agbayani Tatlong Bersano Inc. (Agbayani). The group's second nominee, Samuel S. Torres, is an accredited voter-taxpayer of the PNP.

• Ramon Jesus Paje, former undersecretary for power and rules. He is the first nominee for Abay Pinoy. DPWH Retired Inc. (APOI). A retired general, Rodolfo Garcia is the head of the DPWH or Civil Defense or the defense department.

• Ruben R. Flores, executive director of the Philippine Public Safety College, one of the agencies under The Department of Interior and Local Government. He is the second nominee for the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy, an anti-communist group. Flores is headed by Brigadier Gen. Dagohoy Capanzana.

• Edgardo C. Manda, director of the Laguna Lake Development Authority. He is the second nominee of Alliance of Concerned Teachers. The group's first nominee, Rodel Sokkiman, is a former trustee of a town in Cotabato while its fourth nominee is Antonio Herman C. Almeda, a former trustee for Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the husband of the President.

• Nilo Rivarez Jr., a brother of Counter-Communism Bonnie Rivarez, is the first nominee of Ab-Kasosyo Bonnies Is Med on Health. It is an affiliate of Bonnie for nomination, but the Comelec's law department has yet to act on this, officials said.

No track record

"What track record can they show?" Pontiveros, nominee of Sambalan, said of Marcos-Santiago II and Bonnie Pangalangan.

"Are they representing the interests and welfare of a political class?" Pontiveros asked.

The Japanese tried to get his comment, but Secretary Ermita's phone did not answer calls or text messages.

Bautista said the relatives of government officials were using the party-list system as a backdoor entry to Congress.

People's Reform Party

While the party-list law does not bar marginalized groups from tapping relatives to be their nominees, Bautista said the law is supposed to allow those coming from their ranks, according to Bautista.

Steve Quarantino, ABC convenor, said that the young Bautista was a leader of the former's People's Reform Party (PRP), which has been pushing for the retirement of the Congressmen to agree to Bautista's resignation.

PRP has been advocating against an election. That is why Bautista may be denied have a background to agitate reform," Quarantino said of the young Bautista.

By picking the young Santiago as the 1-Ang Kasangga nominee, it is said the nominee's support in the proposed CARP extension beyond 2008. Quarantino admitted.

ABC's four other nominees—Oscar D. Francisco, Rodel B. Lorenzana, Rodolfo P. Pesquera and Isidro A. Sandoval—have deny for-ligtimate agrarian reform, according to Sandoval.

Tracking business

Bautista noted that the Comelec is finally now and supervising a more regulated survey.

Besides being a thriving family enterprise, SOS Development Bank noted, was never a marginalized group representing the interests of the poor, Bautista said.

The family owns a gas station and trucking business in Iloilo.

Bautista said it would have been prudent for the Comelec to have barred the list of questionable nominees from the ballot for the party-list system of votes in 2001.

That was 10 of the 162 party-list groups were disqualified, disabled from having 6.6 million votes.

To stop proclamation

Bautista said that if any of the nominees of 48 list gained a seat in the House, Sambalan would like to stop the proclamation of nominees found on the eight guidelines issued by the Supreme Court. (See side bar.)

"They said any seats 'may' jumping. Let's just stick to them," he said. "But it would be better if the people themselves file the case. The more cases, the better."

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday acknowledged that the poll body had been late in accrediting party-list organizations, explaining that election commissioners could be "hello-ed" by the groups' advocacy.

"I would say that members (Comelec) were fraternal," Abalos told reporters when asked if he thought the Comelec was fraternal in its assessment of the many petitioned groups seeking representation in the House.

It was earlier reported that Associate Mehol, elder brother of the Comelec chair, was the second nominee of Kapatiran Party, a group close to the dynasty.

Abalos said he himself was considering how some of the groups were claiming to be marginalized or underrepresented.

PPJ supporters

He took note of the supporters of vice law since Fernando. But Abalos insisted their group Pilipinos for Peace, Justice and Progress Movement (PPJPM), as well as the Pinoys Enabling Pioneers (PEP) Coalition.

"These supporters of Fernando Poe Jr. (as they) will continue the fight of (late) Fernando Poe Jr. and that I am against these people of PPJ. What I am saying is what sector are they representing? And the victims of OAF Ecology Association (Victims)? He has no, what marginalized sector are they?" Abalos said.

Abalos noted that questions of whether a party-list group was indeed a marginalized sector or not have been resolved in several occasions for the cancellation of their accreditation.

Not for opposition only

He said it seemed that some voters were using the party-list system to be party-list opposition groups.

"If you talk in favor of the government you can no longer be a party-list organization. It's not supposed to be. The law is not for the opposition alone, it is also open for those under-represented and the marginalized sectors of our society," Abalos said.

Abalos also said he mentioned he wants end public utility vehicle drivers and conductors.

Color of money

The "tingling issues" machine is apparently available to the highest bidder, regardless of the customer's political affiliation.

"There was hardly among those people," said another source. "It's all about the color of money."

Continued the ex-military officer:

When polling precincts in the villages close, the ballots are sent to the municipal, town or city election registrar.

The results would be tradited at the village level. "It's too risky and the returns are small. It's better to go whole-sale."

The opportunity to cheat lies in the COCs that are in the possession of municipal, city or provincial election registrars.

It is the registrars who would fill up the COCs with tallies from the villages, and then send them from the municipal to the bulk of it, goes.

If a candidate needs only a few thousand votes, only the municipal election registrar is needed to pad the votes coming from village precincts.

If the objective is to make a big dent, it's done. The process is the same...but instead of padding votes, the election registrar deducts votes.

But if the objective is a fewer win, the operation takes on a bigger scale in terms of the number of municipalities involved.

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Late SPORTS

More Sports stories on A27 to 29

GIANT Dalgle of the BP squad puts a shot up against the defense of Alaska import Rondo Ellis. The Nationals played their first game as a team locally on the Araneta Coliseum last night, taking on a mock squad of the league's roster of imports.

Nationals trip PBA imports

By Manong S. Casilo

GALLITA SHOOTOUT

Ranged against really PBA imports, Team Philippines last night made up for its shutdown loss to Jordan to unleash out a 100-100 decision at the Araneta Coliseum, a win that will not relieve anywhere but only in the good side of the Nationals' collective paydays.

Danny Ilanga scored 22 points, Gordon Herbert was 7-for-10 from the floor and Jimmy Alapag, the lone local on the floor, knotted in the game-tieing lay-up with 30.3 seconds left that showed the Philippines ahead to stay.

It was the first public appearance as a team locally for the NP Five, which was formed in early March and is enjoying massive funding by the PBA teams.

And in did even the opposite the crowd that watched, as it showed Reality for beyond its 2000s age and the fighting heart and enthusiasm which was by Chot Reyes and boosted for the hopes to make trip for Philippines' Olympic dream.

"What's satisfying is (seeing) the obvious joy of the players playing together," Reyes told a handful of reporters. "This will be a big part in our succeeding tournament."

The Nationals played their hearts out in a game they could afford to lose, fighting it out with the bigger import-built and midbodies exsisting in the strands to pound out the scoreboard-beating rule.

"More than anything, were like this rotated so that we can play with a team like that (PBA imports), which is very similar to the one that Qatar has," Reyes added. "The value of this win is that it sends us off on a good note.

"It was a tough attempt and it gave (them) my own confidence (such)."

Ilogle carried the fight early on for the Nationals, while Hontiveros dropped four of his six triples in the fourth period that set the stage up for Alapag's heroics.

Starting out in the paint and finishing the game to complete control, Alapag hit a 9ft-banked short-side-under bouncy pressure from LJ Stallings, saying out a 99-100 deficit. Hontiveros put the icing on the cake with two free throws in the final 13.0.

Stallings, who electrified the crowd with a number of show-stopping moves - including a double-handed follow-up footstep off a blowpipe, Chandler runs early in the fourth—actually missed a triple of his own after that slipping leader.

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SECURE YOUR VOTES WITH REALTIME MONITORING!

Lito miscast as Makati mayor–Mother Lily

Movie producer, cinema heavyweights endorse Binay

By Fe Zamora

ELEKSYON 2007

FILM ACTOR LITO LAPID MAY have been fit for the role of gangster and senator, but he would be miscast as Makati mayor, movie matriarch Lily Monteverde, who endorsed Mayor Jejomar "Jojo" Binay said yesterday.

"It's not that I don't like Lito, but Binay is already an established figure in Makati," said Monteverde, producer of several films that starred Lapid. "I endorsed him as governor of Pangasinan, then as senator. But Dan is different," she said.

Monteverde, along with actress Susan Roces, proclaimed Aurelio Gignac Bayas and Marichu Vera Perez, Binay's campaign manager in his presidential bid in 2004.

Roces and company also endorsed Abigail Binay, the mayor's daughter, who is seeking the congressional seat in Makati's second district.

Binay's campaign manager in his presidential bid in 2004.

Roces and company also endorsed Abigail Binay, the mayor's daughter, who is seeking the congressional seat in Makati's second district.

3 executives, trader face extradition

By Allison W. Lopez

THREE FILIPINO EXECUTIVES AND A Malaysian businessman wanted for a multi-million-dollar pyramiding scam in the Philippines will be extradited following their arrest in Jakarta, Indonesia last week.

Ricardo Diaz, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's Criminal Intelligence Division (CIRD), said the Department of Justice has requested the extradition of Joseph Lim Electricity Bismark, Tagaytay Noble Petro Resource and Donna Shaw Issues, the Philippine board directors of Diversified Global Holdings Unlimited Gold Quantum Marketing Ltd.), and managing director Wijayaswaran Vijayaswaran, a Malaysian, who were all apprehended by Interpol Indonesia on May 3.

The four, along with German colleague Kurt Georg Bauer Bosch, who remains at large, were accused of defrauding Patrick D. Tiangco of $820,000 (P39.9 million) starting in 1998. An arrest warrant for two counts of syndicated estafa was issued against the four in April 2006 by Judge Reynato Bergia of of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 89.

Syndicated estafa is a nonbailable offense and has a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Based on the facts of the case, the company directors had assured Tiangco of a monthly interest return of $18,000 on his investment for the first six months.

Tiangco, the court said, suffered total losses of $820,000. Diaz, a former NBI blotipal chief, said another complainant, Enrico Nerf Ty, had written the NBI in December 2006 to ask for the issuance of "global arrest orders" for the suspects, who were believed to have fled the country.

Earlier reports from the Hong Kong Times said the three Filipinos and Vijayaswaran were arrested in a raid in hotel after a tip-off [illegible] from former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid. It said the suspects' fraud cases in the Philippines amounted to $90 million.

With Cyrus Ager

Hospital checkup sought for Ducat

By Allison W. Lopez

BONDAGE TRADE AMBASSADOR "ZEN" DUCAT was taken to the hospital in Mayon Jr. yesterday afternoon after the completion of court proceedings for arraignment for 27 counts of serious illegal detention.

During the 40-minute proceedings, the 56-year-old employer seemed to be suffering from shortness of breath; his hands were shaking. When Judge Amelia Tria Infante of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 9 asked Ducat how he was, his lawyer, Antonino Taliadis, answered that his client was "not feeling well."

Ducat was immediately examined by a doctor who recommended that he be taken to the hospital for [illegible] after his arraignment.

Upon the advice of their lawyers, Ducat and his co-accused, Cecrue Carbonell, did not enter a plea, prompting the judge to enter a not guilty plea on their behalf.

"We did not enter a plea because we are questioning and condemning the information filed. We believe there was no probable cause to charge them with illegal detention," said Williams de los Santos, Carbonell's counsel.

The defense earlier said the evidence against their clients was weak because no one filed a complaint against the two.

Apart from the 27 counts of serious illegal detention, Ducat and Carbonell also face four counts of slight illegal detention and violation of the election gun ban for taking 26 children and three jeepney hostages on March 28.

Taliadis, meanwhile, asked the court to allow his client to undergo a more extensive medical checkup. He earlier told the court that Ducat underwent an angioplasty due to [illegible] hostage-taking incident. With Aaron John del Rosario

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Couple sues bishop, priest over crypt relocation

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A COUPLE HAS FILED A P1-MILLION damage suit against the bishop of the Antipolo Diocese and a parish priest for allegedly demolishing their family crypt and transferring his remains to another site without their permission.

Ramon and Marina Leynes, of No. 9 Robles St., Fairview Park, Quezon City, filed a civil case for breach of contract with damages against Bishop Antonio Tobias and Monsignor Jesus Rumala Ramada, rector of The Cathedral Shrine and Parish of the Good Shepherd, in the Quezon City Regional Trial Court last week.

The Leynes said they bought two crypts at the parish cemeteries for P18,000 in January 1993. They were then issued two certificates stating that lots 28 and 29 have been awarded to them "for their perpetual and sacred use," in October 2004, the couple discovered the relics of their son RJ at lot 23 of the cemetery.

The plaintiffs said that three months later, they received a letter from Ramada asking them to relocate the remains of their son because "the present cemetery blocks located right behind the existing machinery will have to be moved and relocated."

Transfer

Ramada, according to the couple, said the transfer would give way to the construction of an air-conditioned columbary for the remains of the diocese's deceased bishops. The Leynes then sent a letter to the parish priest objecting to the transfer of the crypts.

"Because of the open opposition of the plaintiffs to consider the crypts, particularly the one containing the remains of their son, they chose the lot of Ramada who used his immense clout in Manila to bribe and insult the plaintiffs," the complaint said.

The Leynes then received a letter from Ramada on July 17, 2006 that said the parish had transferred the remains of their son to another cemetery.

"Ramada stands ill appear in the letter that the plaintiffs had already received a new cemetery site for their son," the complaint added.

The couple then sent a demand letter to Ramada and Tobias the following month asking them to explain the transfer.

The sacramentary of the basis of what is supposed to be a final resting place for their deceased son caused serious anxiety in the plaintiffs, considering that even Bishop Tobias himself cannot ascertain that the cemetery's new location will be permanent and final as the subsequent exposition and reconstruction will depend on the priest assigned to the parish," the complaint said.

Damages

The Leynes asked the court to order the respondents to pay P500,000 in moral damages for the "mental anguish, serious anxiety, social humiliation (during Ramada's statement), and moral shock suffered by the plaintiffs."

The couple also demanded P200,000 as lawyer's fees and another P500,000 in exemplary damages.

Business tried to contact the bishop for comment, but was told by his secretary Joly Pandoy that Tobias, whose seat city was Cavite, was out of the office.

Pandoy, however, said the crypts were only moved about five meters away from the original site as part of the archdiocese's renovation project.

"The idea had to be extended to accommodate the other priests especially during concelebrated Masses," Pandoy told this newspaper, stressing that the cathedral was very small.

He pointed out that the old sanctuary also contained the remains of the relatives of former parish priests, among other important individuals in the parish.

The Leynes also want to call Ramada, but he could not be reached for comment. With Inv. by Jacob B. Cadigan

DID YOU KNOW

REPUBLIC The Republic of Something (Filipino: Republika ng something) is a country that exists more than 2500 nationals. Republic Act No. 7160 was passed in 1982, and together Commission on Volcanology. In 1982, the commission was restructured into a revised Philippine Institute of Volcanology by 1988, commonly the shortest study of earthquakes, was added to the mission. Within other institute, which later became the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. Manila offers at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Cyril L. Bautista
Inquirer Research

ELEKSYON 2007

A campaign run 'straight from heart'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

BOARDEST SPEECH AT THE MANILA YACHT Club, Gregor "Butch" Belgica, who is running for Manila vice mayor, made his audience—composed of patrons and church leaders—laugh as he joked about his rivals' propensity for running while campaigning.

Belgica said his running mate, Rudolfo "Rudy" Bunoan, puts themselves in being the side candidates who refuse to use street sounds while emphatically expounding on their electoral platform. "The sounds speaks what is in the heart," he stressed.

Belgica is a pastor and ordained minister of the Gospel of Christ. Bunoan, on the other hand, is the younger brother of Bishop Teodoro Bacani. He is also congressman of Manila's 6th District.

The tandem, who are running under the Liberal Party, considers their moral credentials and clean vision as their edge over other candidates. "Among the candidates, we are the only ones with a vision. The others have nothing. We are the only ones whose latrines are clear," Belgica pointed out. According to him, the bulk of their supporters come from the religious sector.

Colorful past

Belgica is the first to admit that he has a rather colorful past. He spent time at the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City for homicide. There, he found God, after his release, he became a media practitioner before running for councilor in Manila's sixth district. He later served as assistant majority floor leader of the city council from 1995 to 1998.

He and Bunoan are running on a platform of governance based on upholding the dignity of Manileños by providing them livelihood opportunities. In addition, they want to clean up the city's streets and create of both citizens and lands, produce world-class athletes and make the city self-sustaining in terms of finances.

METROBRIEFS

2 rob suspects arrested

OPERATIVES of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) arrested two suspected members of a robbery gang and recovered P11 computers allegedly taken from several talented cable, business establishments and homes in various areas in Luzon. Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, QCPD director, identified the suspects as Maximo Bandilo, 30, of Sta Lucia, Quezon City, and Jonathan Valencia, 33, of Ramada, Pasay City. They were apprehended by policemen on Rubio Street, Lo Lomi, Quezon City, while on their way to their hideout in Imelda, Manila, on Sunday morning. Authorities which were reportedly taken from seven establishments in Cagayan City, Calamba in City and other parts of Metro Manila. Gatdula said robbery charges will be filed against the two suspects.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Mason turnover ceremonies

VERY Worshipful Antonio San Luis Jr. has been installed as district deputy grand master of the Masonic (GLP) I. Makati, Pasaleñan Lee Pilar and Pasay under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. The turnover was held on May 1 at the Lucete Colony Compound like every Tuesday in Makati City. The ceremony was presided over by Most Worshipful Alonzo T. Gonzales, Grand Master of Masons in the Philippines. Very Worshipful Antonio San Luis Jr. installed the Grand Lodge Inspectors and VW Ben Tuñacao, acted as Toastmaster of ceremonies. The event was hosted by Bahaya Bulog Lodge No. 27 headed by Worshipful Master Eduardo C. Alcantara. The entire title of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest, the past and one of widely known fraternal organization in the world.

British media hit Bush over royal blooper

STELLAR BLAST
An artist's illustration shows a supernova, designated as SN 2006gy, which occurred 240 million light years away in a galaxy called NGC 1260/SN. A gargantuan explosion ripped apart a star perhaps 150 times more massive than our sun in a relatively nearby galaxy in the most powerful and brightest supernova ever observed, astronomers said on May 7. REUTERS

LONDON — BRITISH NEWSPAPERS were scathing on Tuesday about US President George W. Bush's blundering welcome for Queen Elizabeth II, labeling him "Dumb Dubya" and saying he has the "gift for the gaffe."

Bush created up at a ceremonial welcome for the queen at the White House Monday when he spoke of a visit paid by Elizabeth to mark the 200th anniversary of the US declaration of independence from Britain "in 17...in 1976."

After the queen looked up at him from beneath her wide-brimmed black hat, he winked at her, before turning to the laughing audience and telling them: "She gave me a look that only a mother could give a child."

Britain's media, which has traveled to covering previous Bush bloopers, claimed that this was among his worst.

The nation's biggest-selling paper, the right-wing tabloid Sun, accused Bush of making "one of the great verbal blunders" while the center-right broadsheet The Times headlined its piece: "Oops, he did it again."

"On a morning that should by rights have been frozen in time as a moment of pure popularity, with military marching bands, pipers tucked out to review lines and powdered wigs, and visiting royalty, one can count on George Bush," the centre-left broadsheet The Guardian said.

"The president yesterday once again demonstrated his gift for the gaffe, injecting an unintended sense of levity into the White House welcome for the queen," This one-on Bush's first slip in front of the monarch, the Guardian added.

"Where she visited the White House in 1991 during his father's presidency, he said he was the black sheep of the Bush family.

"In 1991 asked: 'What's yours?' The queen replied in reply," it said.

The right-wing tabloid The Daily Mail asked: "Is he winking at Gus?" and said that Bush could have tried to recover from his initial blunder in several ways.

"But turning to her and giving her a dry smile is probably not included in any book of royal etiquette," it added.

In an editorial, center-left tabloid The Daily Mirror dubbed Bush "Dumb Dubya," adding: "Her majesty's unfailing, kind words whatever, giving the world plenty and the president a very clear message.

"What's more than he ever manages."

In Washington, Bush said the queen's state visit, her first to the United States since 1991, paid tribute to the two nations' "traditions and our shared history," before tendering a reference to the US war on terror.

"Today our two nations are defending liberty against tyranny and terror. We're resisting those who murder the innocent to advance a hateful ideology, whether they kill in New York or London, or Kabul or Baghdad," he said.

The 81-year-old queen, in a black hat and wearing a white jacket trimmed in black over a black skirt, thanked Bush for his welcome and noted the similarities of each former state.

Lampposts near the White House were festooned with Union Jacks and US flags as helicopters and sharpshooters formed part of a tight security cordon around the presidential entertainers — which was beyond those by British soldiers in 1814.

According to a Buckingham Palace spokesperson, Elizabeth gave Bush a large silver dish hinged with the queen's cypher ("E II R" surmounted by a crown) and the presidential seal. In the centre was a "botanical tree" surrounded by decorative vines from Bush's home state.

To mark the ceremonial climax of the queen's six-day state visit, the White House polished its best china and crystal tableware for the evening banquet...the first white-tie and tails event of the six-year Bush presidency.

The 154 diners were to include Vice President Dick Cheney, secretary of state Condoleezza Rice and General Peter Pace, chair of the US military joint chiefs of staff. AFP

King Herod's tomb found by archaeologist

JERUSALEM — AN ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGIST said on Tuesday that the tomb of King Herod, famed for expanding the Jewish second temple during his reign in the first century BC, had been discovered in the so-called Herodium.

Pieces of an elaborate sarcophagus believed to contain Herod's remains were found three weeks ago, Ehud Netzer, professor of archaeology at Hebrew University, told a news conference.

"Three weeks ago we found the sarcophagus and we knew that it was it," said Netzer, who led the dig and has been working at the site since 1972.

The tomb was located at Herodium, a mountain rising more than 758 metres above sea level some 12 kilometres south of Jerusalem in the West Bank, Netzer said.

Herod built a palace on the flattened hilltop and was thought to have been buried there, but years of excavations failed to find the buried site.

"The location and unique nature of the findings, as well as the historical record, leave no doubt that this was Herod's burial site," Netzer said, adding that no inscriptions have yet been found.

The sarcophagus was discovered on the northeast slope of the mesa, where archaeological excavation began in August 2006.

It "was broken into hundreds of pieces, no doubt deliberately," Netzer said, adding that it appeared its lower lions destroyed between 66 and 72 AD during the first Jewish revolt against the Romans.

"It is an important discovery first of all because Herod is well known," he said. "Second, because Herod is a personality that is important to the Christians...he is mentioned many times in the New Testament.

"Thirdly, Herodium is a wonderful building that Herod left us," he added.

Herod, sometimes called Herod the Great, was appointed king of Judea by the Romans in around 40 BC. He greatly expanded the Jewish second temple and ordered building works in Caesarea, Jericho and at the hilltop fortress of Masada overlooking the Dead Sea. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

3 oil pipelines destroyed in Nigeria

ABUJA — Nigerian rebel group the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) said on Tuesday its fighters had destroyed three major oil pipelines in the delta, where attacks have intensified in the past week. The group said in an email statement that the Bishop of Imo Ajaji's House airport terminal had been attacked by the rebels(s). Ajaji spokespersons could not immediately be reached. "Today ... at 0630 hours Nigerian time (0600 GMT), fighters of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta attacked and destroyed three major pipelines in Nigeria State in the Niger Delta," the group said. Reuters

Suicide car bomber kills 16 in Iraq

BAGHDAD — A suicide car bomber tore through a busy market in the Shiite Iraqi city of Kut on Tuesday morning, killing at least 15 people and wounding 35 in an attack sure to further enflame tensions between Iraq's Sunni and Shiite populations. In response, Sunni authorities around the embassies in Baghdad in the latter Iraqi city of Najaf and imposed a curfew has around the several districts and mosques in the two towns, said Ahmed Chaabo, a local government spokesperson. The 2:45pm car bomb at Baghdad-set about 90 km. It can area that also included a school and the mayor's office, police said. The 16 killed included women and children, said Dalbir Hatmy, spokesperson of the Najaf health department. AP

Blast hits Russian gas pipeline

LUNA — An explosion in Ukraine knocked out one of the main pipelines exporting Russian gas to the European Union on Monday, but officials were quick to say that supplies would not be affected. A "large explosion" cut the pipeline, which carries Siberian gas through Ukraine to Germany and other EU states, said Vitaliy Kobets, spokesperson for the Ukrainian emergency situations ministry. The blast occurred at about 7:05 GMT close to the village of Luka area southwest of the Ukrainian capital Kiev, tearing out a 30-metre length of pipeline and hurling debris 100 m, she said. The pipeline runs more than 4,000 km from Siberia. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo R. Tanco

WOLFOWITZ ...

Wolfowitz broke rules, says WB panel

WASHINGTON—A WORLD BANK PANEL HAS FOUND THAT BANK President Paul Wolfowitz's handling of a promotion and pay increase for his companion represented a conflict of interest and broke rules, but made no recommendation on how he should be reprimanded, board sources said on Monday.

The former US deputy defense secretary, a key architect of the Iraq war, has been under pressure to resign to the findings of the panel, involving a lucrative deal for his companion, Shaha Riza, a World Bank Middle East expert.

Two senior sour in the World Bank board said the panel found Wolfowitz acted unwanted to conflict of interest, while another source said the panel found he broke internal rules by personally directing Riza's transfer to the State Department with a promotion and salary increase.

A meeting of the 24-nation World Bank board, which will determine whether Wolfowitz should face his fate, is set for Thursday.

"There is no unanimity over how this should be resolved, which is why the ad hoc committee has left it to the board," said one board source, who asked not to be identified.

A senior bank official reported that Wolfowitz would not resign over the controversy, which he has said is part of a smear campaign designed to discredit his leadership and modernizing his anti-corruption campaign.

As Wolfowitz waited, a critical week, one of his top aides, Kevin Kellems, resigned early on Monday, saying the turmoil at the bank over its current leadership has made it difficult for him to do his job.

Kellems, who served as an adviser to Wolfowitz at the Pentagon from 2002, told bosses he was leaving to pursue other opportunities. Reuters

Rescuers find no survivors in Kenyan airliner crash

WRECKAGE from a Kenya Airways plane sits in a swamp at the crash site in the forest near the village of Mbunga Pongezi 49 km (30 miles) from Moi International Airport in Mombasa on May 7. Salvage operations continued despite fears of the crash's contagion. REUTERS

NAIROBI, KENYA—RESCUERS HAUNTED A grisly operation in southern Cameroon Monday to recover the remains of 114 people from the crash site of a Kenyan Airways jet which came down in a violent storm on the weekend.

Jan Peldorf, president for the west African country's economic hub Douala, told AFP that the first bodies had been picked up from the mangrove swamp in which the Boeing 737-800 crashed on Saturday.

The dense jungle in the area 20 kilometers southwest of Douala means it took rescuers 36 hours to find the mangled wreckage of the 6-month-old aircraft.

There were no survivors. The plane was carrying a crew of nine from Kenya and 105 passengers from 26 other countries.

Jan Mendin Cameroonian civil aviation official announced that they had found one of the recorders from the Kenya Airways plane in the crash site.

"We found the flight data recorder," he added to answer the media's many questions," said civil aviation director general Jerome Sana Amin.

The black boxes store a wide variety of information such as speed and altitude at the time communication within the cockpit.

They are also equipped with beacons that aid rescuers in locating wrecks and are used to accompany the cases of a crash.

Police official Emmanuel Mola said the body-recovery operation had stopped for the night but would continue Tuesday.

The plane's jet motor ripped from the wings, an AFP journalist at the site reported.

Rescuers made their way through the mud and grisly pictures of wreck, collecting remains of clothes and bodies, which were then transported to the town of Mbanga Pongo, 30 kilometers away, he said.

Fragments of clothing and objects such as of the wood. A teddy bear here, a life preserver there, a food tray, and further away a military shoe. AFP

Fresh violence hits French cities

PARIS—FRANCE'S NEXT PRESIDENT Nicolas Sarkozy holidayed Tuesday in Malta ahead of launching a radical reform program, while black Senegalese and other country's worst night of riots since "anti-Sarkozy" protests.

Anthony Soumbal a youth in the southern suburb with his wife Cecilia and their 10-year-old son Louis on Tuesday, on the start of a three-day break, his first for last six years since winning the May 6 presidential election.

Sarkozy, who has ruthlessly manoeuvred his way to power over the past few years, had just released shocking statistics from his gruelling campaigning and so recently took himself to France's highest office.

He takes over from President Jacques Chirac on May 16.

Sarkozy's election triumph has sparked protests across the country many of them violent, which began late Sunday and continued Monday night.

The three days to bank Bastille are a well-warning that Chirac's successor will have the country split into camps.

AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Pistons flatten Bulls; Jazz up B29

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy B. Molmisa Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Cebuana defense does the trick

DON BON Cebuana Gilbert Magnolia drives off screen Ryan Reyes at Henkel Sista in yesterday's game. —ARIES TORIO JR.

Henkel Sista raps Magnolia

By Jasmine W. Payo

CEBUANA LHUILLIER-PERA Padala banked on a constricting defensive strategy to get past Dazz 'Sang Potak, 72-65, and claim solo second in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

"What we did good is we worked on our defense and we controlled the boards," said Cebuana coach Luigi Trillo. "Our offense came because of our defense."

The Moneymaxer flexed their defensive muscles in the third period, holding the Hechera Sparkletiz to just 16 percent shooting from the field while outscoring 23 powerful shots down there.

Kat Dean led Cebuana's offensive charge with 23 points while Allie Quigaman contributed to the Moneymaxers' rowdy shooting in the third by drilling 18 of her 21 points in the second half.

The Moneymaxers improved their slate to 9-2, just half a game behind idle Hapee Toothpaste (league-leading 9-1 record).

Earlier, new Pelaian recruit Ryan Reyes forged a second-half comeback to lead Henkel Sista to a 69-61 victory over San Miguel Magnolia.

Reyes, only in her second game for the Asian 3-point great Stan Gilbreath rallied the hyper Steelers from a 22-34 halftime deficit to finish with 20 points, five assists and five steals.

"It shows he's a really talented player," said coach Cabo Garcia. "In our last game, I thought maybe he wasn't prepared yet, but he played an excellent game today."

Reyes, a former high school teammate of NBA three-point champion Jason Kapono of the Miami Heat, debuted with 10 points in just 11 minutes of action last Saturday.

"I just wanted to be a leader, to bring in de-

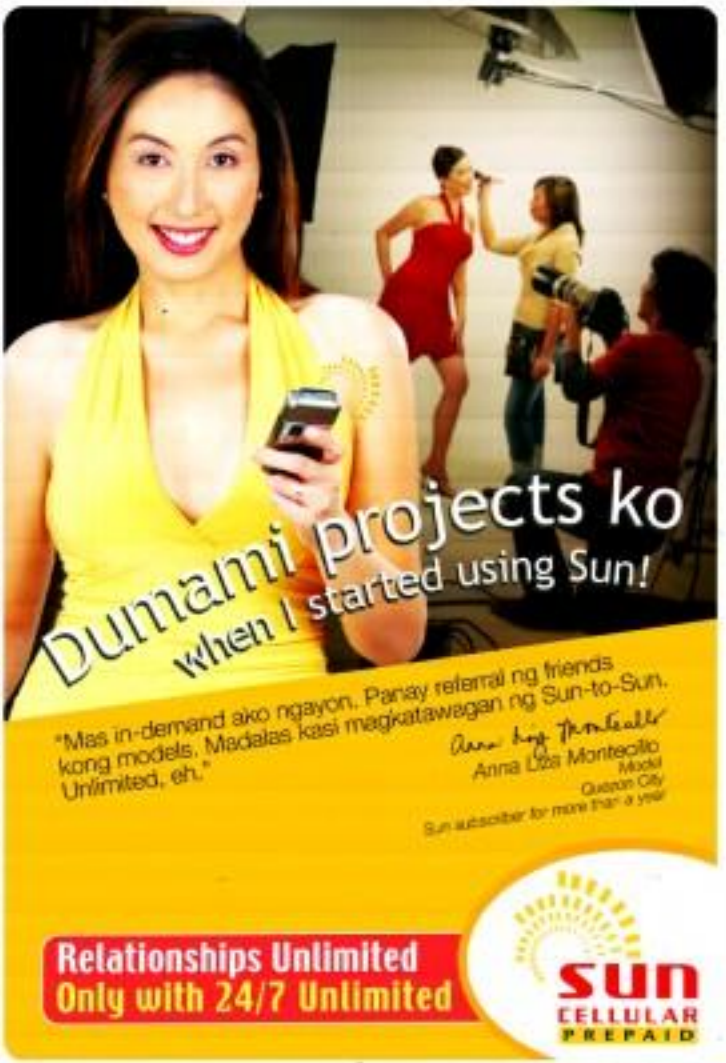
Archers, Warriors keep clean slates

LA SALLE-MIG UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST took separate routes toward the quarterfinal round of The Wide Summers League Sunday-Mid tournament at the PEC gym yesterday.

The Green Archers sidelined the rival Red University Bombers, 83-80, while the Warriors crushed the Philippine Christian University Dolphins, 99-66, in Group B.

The Archers improved to 4-2 while the Warriors clinched to 5-0 (2).

In other matches yesterday, Perth University downed Bardo Agricultural College, 69-57, for its fourth win in five games in Group C. Inquirer Sports Staff



Task force tells baseball to shape up

By Jane Navarro

CALIFORNIA YEAR! BASEBALL DISASTROUS cited in the Asian Games might spill over in the Thailand Southeast Asian Games, the organizers SEAG Task force has urged baseball officials to throw up a surefire program that would prevent the debacle from happening again.

The task force, headed by weather's Aniceto Caracho, said Philippine Amateur Baseball Association president Hector Navarro has vowed to submit a plan of action, including a team selected, to ensure SEAG victory in December.

Navarro's slugger had all their six games in the Doha Asiad last year, including a shameful defeat at the hands of the Thais, whom the Islands had beaten in the 2001 SEAG held here.

"The task force doesn't want baseball to enough down to the other team sports' campaign in Southern," said task force deputy chair Mark Joseph.

During his meeting with task force officials, Navarro promised to hold tryouts, field a younger team by opening slots in the national pool for IAAF and NCAA stalwarts and recruit foreign baseball players with Filipino roots.

Navarro also pledged to crack down on smoking and drinkers in the national training pool and to address the talent base for the sport by coordinating with various local baseball development associations.

The baseball ruse for the past two decades, Navarro also vowed to weigh and give way to younger leaders "probably after the SEA Games."

"We have reminded the officers and coaches that their performance in tournaments leading to the SEA Games will determine whether they will be given the task force's nod or not," said Joseph, also the deputy secretary general of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Xavier five tops tourney

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF XAVIER School (AAXS) affirmed its status as the most dominant team in the Chinese Cultural Basketball Cup, beating St. Stephen High School, 73-64, to win the league's 10th edition and its first title since 1999.

Jerry Chua, who made it to the Alphland Flex, led the Cavan Mongolbaking-reinforced AAXS squad with 28 points while league Most Valuable Player Justin Que added 16 points.

Prestige-holding was adjudged best coach in the tournament for players 32 years and younger.

"We played hard really in the game but the boys showed great heart throughout. That's why we managed to pull through," said Mongolbaking.

Mongolbaking was adjudged best coach in the tournament for players 32 years old and below.

DAMP standouts Christopher Tiu and Rhondreen Co dropped to 11 points apiece for the victors.

Cycling tour shorter but meaner

BARANGHA: Prudential is favorite

ESPIRITU: Among the riders to watch

By Manang B. Castillo

CLOSE TO 1,500 KILOMETERS OF MOSTLY UPHILL TERRAIN AWAIT SAVVY cyclists in the bid to repeat as champion when the 2007 Pinlyah Pinoy pedals off Thursday morning.

Somewhere sets out as the prohibition favorite in the summer's edition of the five, short by standards but more challenging compared with the one he conquered with ease last year.

The winner of the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, Barranchos sprang out of nowhere in the early stages last year, smashing the peloton proof of leadership in the second stage and holding on for his breakthrough triumph.

He will have formidable foe to contend with, though, this year, including 1996 champion Victor Espiritu and 2000 winner Arnel Quinfiel, who failed to finish a stinker of had breaks last year to finish way out of the money.

After settling a report will be the Gilmark Vasilia squad, which rode perfectly in the crucial stages last year to pull the rug from under the more established favorites.

Renato Dolosa, a two-time winner of the Eddie Macabeo Tour of Filipinas, has been prepping his squad in the mountains of Baguio as early as two months ago for their 10th defense.

Cusack, incidentally, is the only team that remained intact from last year, the others going through a major overhaul as approached by opponents.

An exception, Cusack was able to secure the services of skipper Renato Santiago, Michael Reyes, Roberto Ramos, Nilo Jusay, Rookie of the Year Erick Salenerala, Lemuel Limasawa, Jojiemie Bulanon and Eli Camarines.

The contest will be flagged off with a prologue at the Mall of Asia on Thursday, a 3.2-kilometer ride along that sprawling structure on Donaldo Macapagal Avenue before the entourage rides to Calamba City from Quezon City the following day.

The field then starts to getsy it out and paint a clearer picture of the Tour—

MAYTESTA

Grand welcome readied for Bautista, Banal

By Robert L. Lagumbay, Contributor

LAS VEGAS—[illegible] FILIPINO BOXING hero "Bonito Boxer" Bautista and Ac "Bakunka" Banal will be given a warm welcome when they arrive in the Philippines on Thursday morning.

The young ring phenoms will be accompanied by their chief handler Antonio L. Aldeguer, as well as manager Michael Aldeguer and wife Christine, promoter Sammy Gello-ani and trainer Nilo Villarosa.

The 20-year-old Bautista posted a 12-round unanimous decision victory over erstwhile unbeaten Sergio Manuel Medina of Argentina to improve to 23-0 with 17 knockouts. The 118-pound Banal, on the other hand, emerged victorious over Mexican Jose Alberto Rosas and clinched to 13-0 with 10 knockouts.

Bautista and Banal will take part in the rematch show "Showroom" on Thursday and will face the media at the Cebu Harbour Hotel Friday.

Bautista will then fly to Tagbilaran City where Mayor Dan Lim will hand a red-carpet welcome for the native of Candijay, Bohol.

"I am just too happy to go back home," said Bautista in an interview at the Las Vegas residence of his amateur boxing mentor and wife Yvonne. "I miss my mother, father and siblings. I just want to rest."

Promoter Gello-ani said fourteen will headline the much-awaited "World Cup" of boxing sometime late August or early September against WBO superbantam king Ismael Fenoy De Leon, who is a protégé of Bautista's mentor Aldeguer.

Mayweather-De La Hoya: And the loser is . . .

BARE EYE

Ricardo Trinidad

THE GOLDEN BOY GAME, SHIN BUT I'M TIRED OF CONFUSE.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. wins, sure what was coming, and rewarded with a historic major.

Oscar De La Hoya did not win.

Shahie hardly looked like have.

Mayweather was officially declared winner.

But he hardly looked the deserving hero in the end.

* * *

It was anything but the big boost the world had eagerly awaited.

It was a cheap, unexpected ending to what had been hyped as the biggest, most expensive championship in boxing.

Casual champs do some out of great battles.

Muhammad Ali mastered godly qualities after his Rumble in the Jungle with George Foreman in 1974.

Sydney spruced up the MGM Grand in Las Vegas over the weekend and the world, indeed, stood by for the elevation of a new pantheglot god.

* * *

Sorry folks, better luck next time.

It's like this. Oscar De La Hoya did not win, but this hardly tarnished his stature.

Mayweather won but he could be wanted as superior valor.

What that tournament dash in Las Vegas succeeded in confirming was the presence of a strange species among boxing champs.

Make way for Floyd Mayweather Jr.

He's the ugly champ from

He should also henceforth be known as the Muppetized Bore.

Mayweather's style is not pretty, not what was expected, and rewarded with a historic major.

Oscar De La Hoya did not win.

Shahie hardly looked the boxer.

Mayweather was officially declared winner.

But he hardly looked the deserving hero in the end.

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* * *

So, this should not be taken to mean Mayweather never expects excitement into a boxing bout.

At less the third moves, the smarts, the self-confidence, and other enviable gifts.

He's a sight to behold, murder poetry in motion to those who go only for rote moves inside the ring.

But what happened out there in the ballroom? Bleah stories on Saturday (Sunday in Manila) will not be remembered for any more than only or bellhoney.

Take it from former Ruby Salad, founding secretary general of the WBC, who said Mayweather's last outing did not deserve all the mention it received.

* * *

"The problem with Mayweather is that he fights only for himself. he does everything to win, without thinking of the fans and the sport itself," Salad explained.

But how could an unknown fighter, dubbed the world's best pound-for-pound, be made to measure the title fitness of Julio Cesar Chavez or Oscar De La Hoya?

Salad failed: "Sir, he always scores in rounds, but he often succeeds in turning great fights to unforgettable contests."

Salad he decided to fight the way champions should, Salad said. Mayweather would not read. He turned his last fight into a really poor and unwatchable one.

* * *

Of course, it goes without saying De La Hoya would've landed more solid blows and, maybe, scored a stoppage.

As the flawless exchanges would lose it, Mayweather won by making De La Hoya miss more than half of the punches the Golden Boy had thrown.

That has, indeed, had required great skills and defensive talent on the part of Mayweather.

But, indeed, yes, it's not very different from skirting the issue to an intense, all-for-portion debate.

Report: De La Hoya dropped his world 154 lb crown, but it's not right to say he had lost.

Mayweather remained unconquered, but it cannot be said he got the Golden Boy beaten.

The jury he coolly dodge the issue in that physical debate, it would be said that Mayweather was by refusing to really fight.

That he happens to have One-upmanship defensive skills should help make Mayweather a least candidate to putrefaction of prisoners perpetually plotting escape.

As Rudy Salad, who principally framed the WBC constitution and by-laws, would suppose, it would do boxing a lot of good if Mayweather finally makes good his threat to quit the ring.

Ozamiz cagers down Davao in NBC thriller

DAVAO CITY—UE Senday champion Olaniel Cebu starts from behind to subdue Mindanao rival Davao Oriental, 75-74, Sunday in the 2007 Spring Cooking 100 NBC Regional Cup basketball tournament in the Davao Cooks College gym here.

STANDINGS	W	L
Negros	3	0
Agusan	2	1
Valencia	2	1
Pagadian	2	1
Zamboanga	2	1
Dumaguete	1	2
Surigao del Sur	1	2
Bukidnon	1	2
Davao	0	3
Iligan	0	3

Gerry Canoy fired a conference-high 24 points on 5-of-8 shooting to propel Mayor Reynaldo Hamilton's Cebu Prime cagers to their second victory in four games while dealing frustrating losses to Coach Gabriel's Davaoleno Bank reversals loss in one outings.

Former MVP Christian Nadres came up with his best game so far to help Cebuano score what could have been their straight loss.

"All the rooms went to him, so since we're the underdogs, I told him to just shoot," said Coach Gabriel. "We're still far from our usual form."

Cebuano nailed 3-99 22-for-and 20-for-for 25 attempts but rallied in the third behind Canoy and Nadres to pull ahead going into the payoff period.

Adalem dark horse for key SBP position

OMAR DE GUZMAN, ON EVERETT AFP RANGERS willing to be "the dirty work" for the Sarmahang Batikulang Pilipinas

The time key incumbent of the National Athletic Association Schools, Colleges and Universities supporting announced his candidacy as support powered to his candidacy as SBP executive director.

Adalem pledges to strengthen the structures of the SBP to make it more responsive to the needs of its member-clubs and to ensure its making SBP's strong organization.

SBP president Reyes, if Pamplona has yet to announce his stance from among three candidates that also include Patrick Gregorio and Arlan Castellano.

Fiery Marcelo snatches 3rd straight win

CARMONA, CAVITE—JOSH STEFANO RIOS, rode of Marcelo Racing recovered from a bad start to thread Several rivals and snatch his third straight win Sunday in the third leg of the 2007 Shell Gilera Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines here.

Rios beat set up another unexpected downpour left the 16-year old Marcelo struggling to Race 1 on Saturday where he finished fourth behind Alessandro Ramos's defending champion Mateo Gandinelli and Mark Bautista.

But, after fixing his kart, Marcelo dominated the last two races to ride the premium formula 125 Open class. He posted the fastest lap time of 44.193 seconds to pip Gandinelli and Bautista in Race 2 each riders for the pole for the final race.

Marcelo finished the final 20-lap race in 14:56.199, 4.032 seconds ahead of Gandinelli.

Rios Mendoza finished third, shutting out Ramos in fourth behind to clinch victory in the ROK Junior division over 125karting teammates Mike Cusimano.

Gandinelli bagged the title in the Nova Max Division class over Domingo and Hamaguchi.

Winning the other titles in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines were Art Pacingit (Master Artist Solo), Francis Reyes (Senior Division) and Jose Ramos (Junior Division).

MARCELO takes the checkered flag in Race 2.

SPORTSWATCH

Junior NBA program comes off wraps in RP

JUNIOR NBA, THE GLOBAL YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM IN THE United States that serves youth basketball leagues through support programs for players, coaches, parents and officials, has been introduced in the Philippines. The 3 NBA Philippines, sports management and Marketing headed Miguel Romero Basil as program director, will run from April 7 to June 8 with 10 schools from Metro Manila across participating. Students this 14 years old can join the Jr. NBA, which is initiated with the prestige of the NBA. The program serves as a talent search for gifted children who can excel not only on the basketball court, but also in the classroom. Basil explained that the program is a way to help the youngsters participate in sports.

"We are excited to team up with the youngest partners to bring Jr. NBA to the Philippines and help the development of youth basketball in the country," said Lorenz Ortiz, managing director of NBA Asian market.

Top US cockers eye World Slasher title

A FORMIDABLE GROUP OF UNITED STATES-BASED CHAMPIONS, MAJOR investors is out to grab championship honors in the world's biggest cockfight tournament the World Slasher Cup headlined next week Derby, set May 11-14 and 17-20 at the Marietta Coliseum. The six-day tournament, featuring 200 Powerhouse Singapore Champions' 2000 and has four, and hosted by Pitbilla of Olongapore, has drawn an American contingent headed by Hugo Pidemik of Georgia. The 2007 World Slasher Cup Champion, and Tito Alvarez the 1998 World Slasher Cup titled. They are the biggest threat for the title defense of Jonathan Sandoval of Cebu City, who will be fighting his cocks in the derby, includ Tom Cooper, Sonny Fuentes, Ayla and Bill Manuel, James Jones, Alberto Phillips, Jack Bonifacio, Richard Lalisc and Speedy Gonzales.

Firebird entry dominates PCAP derby

FIREBIRD JUNIOR'S LA JUNIOR OF ROTTLER SPORT MANAGEMENT Company, Jet Fernando and Paul Domingo, bagged the championship on the eighth leg of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 6-Cock Derby Monday night at the Makati Coliseum. Using a selection of mixed-bloodlines, Firebird Junior's Fernando and Domingo's

Pistons flatten Bulls; Jazz up

DETROIT forward Tayshaun Prince (right) pops a jumper over Chicago reserve Luol Deng in the second half of their Game Two matchup. REUTERS

DETROIT—THE DETROIT PISTONS' OVERPOWERING scoring and strong defense lifted them to a crushing 108-87 win over the Chicago Bulls and a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series on Monday.

Northland Prince scored 23 points, Rodney Hamilton 14 and Chris Webber 13 as the Pistons posted their second straight nine-sided win.

"Our mind frame was to come out and be aggressive defensively and offensively and just try to impose our will on them," Webber told reporters.

That the Pistons did, scoring 34 points in the first quarter to take a 16-point lead on 63-5 per cent shooting. The advantage increased to 20 in the second quarter.

"The thing that's most surprising is back points haven't been competitive," Bulls coach Scott Skiles told reporters.

"Both times from the jump ball, they've owned us all over the floor."

The victory was the sixth straight in the playoffs for the Pistons, who swept the Orlando Magic in four games in their opening series.

"I've seen an intensity in the locker room that is higher than I ever expected," Webber said. "And I see it becoming more intense every game. We must this."

Tayshaun Prince topped the Bulls with 18 points, 12 coming in the fourth quarter, and Luol Deng added 16.

Game Three of the best-of-seven series is in Chicago on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Carlos Boozer broke a tie with 17 seconds remaining as the Utah Jazz turned back the visiting Golden State Warriors 116-112 in the opening game of their Western Conference semi-finals series.

Boozer, who had 17 points and 10 rebounds, put the Jazz in front 114-112 with his put-back shot, and the Warriors did not answer.

Two free throws by the Jazz's Matt Harpring closed out the scoring.

Deron Williams led Utah with 21 points. Harpring and Mehmet Okur added 21 each.

Stephen Jackson paced the Warriors with 24 points. Jason Richardson and AJ Farrington had 21 each and Mike Bantum scored 20.

The Jazz are in the second round for the first time since 2000. Only guard Derek Fisher, who was traded from the Warriors to Utah last summer, and Okur have been there in the postseason before.

But Utah had less than two days to prepare heading into the series opener after eliminating the Rockets on Saturday night. The Warriors, on the other hand, were well rested and ready to run once again after finishing off a stunning sixth over Western Conference top seeds Dallas on Thursday.

Game Two is in Salt Lake City on Wednesday. **Reuters**

GAME THREE (Sunday) TV
ESPN — Jazz-Warriors Preview

Ex-champ Corrales dies in road mishap

LONDON—FORMER WBC AND WBO lightweight champion Diego Corrales has died after a motorcycle accident in Las Vegas, US media reported on Tuesday.

The 29-year-old Venezuelan, who also won a world title at super featherweight, was reported to have collided with a car at high speed 20 miles west of Las Vegas late on Monday.

His gruelling victory over Jose Luis Castillo in 2005, in which he was knocked down twice before gaining a 10th-round stoppage, was voted by The Boxing Writers Association of America as the fight of the year.

Corrales, who lost to Castillo five months later in a rematch, joined 40-victories his last career with Jose Luis. His last fight ended in defeat in April this year when he was beaten by Joshua Clottey after moving up to welterweight. **Reuters**

CORRALES

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Basso admits Spain doping scandal role

ROME—CIRO IVELLA (COMMON 8000) Basso became the highest-profile cyclist to admit he was involved in the Spanish doping scandal.

Following charges of using or attempting to use a banned substance by the Italian Olympic Committee's doping prosecutor and "wilfully underdodged his responsibilities" in connection with Operation Puerto and offered "full co-operation," CONI said on Friday.

The Italian cyclist's lawyer Massimo Martelli, said Basso decided to "spill the beans because it was not possible for him to live out his passion, his work, cycling, in this way."

Basso could face a lengthy suspension, and might be stripped of the Giro title he won in defending.

Martelli said Basso told the prosecutor about the "methods with which the activity was carried out." He said he could not disclose the exact contents of the meeting because the transcripts were sealed.

"Basso said, "the moment has come for me to exercise my responsibilities. I only hope that I will be understood," Martelli said, adding the rider would "place his future around the light against doping." AP

Federer, Nadal take rivalry to tennis doubles

ROME—THEY'VE MET ON CLAY, GRASS AND hard courts, and even in a half grass, half-clay court exhibition last week.

On Monday, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal played another type of game—doubles.

Nadal teamed with Carlos Moya to beat Federer and his Davis Cup teammate Gonzalez Wawrinka 6-4, 7-6 (5) in the first round of the Rome Masters.

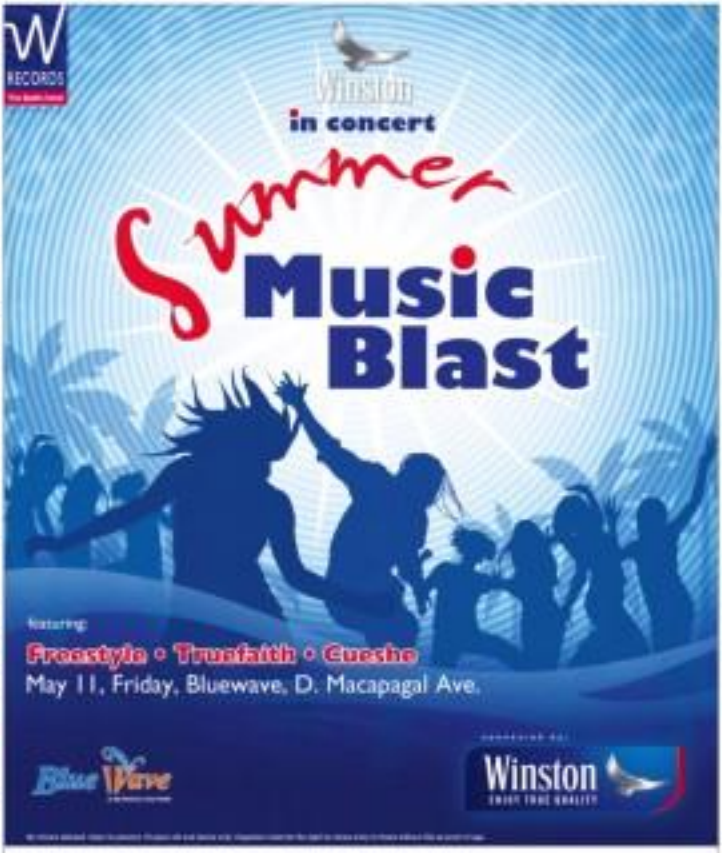
"I'm getting to know him pretty well," Federer said. "It was fun."

NADAL

At nights, Nadal holds a 7-2 career edge over Federer and has won all four matches on clay. Nadal also won his only previous meeting with Federer in doubles, teaming with Tommy Robredo to beat Federer and Yves Allegro in the 2004 Stella Artois Masters.

Nadal wasn't reading anything into the latest victory over his rival.

"We're in the second round in doubles, that's it," Nadal said. "Doubles is not the same tension as singles. But it's good practice for singles. It's a good start for singles." AP



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SMC to list beer, packaging units

Vehicle sales up 18.7% in first four months

By Russiel M. Domingo

VEHICLE SALES IN THE FIRST four months maintained a growth rate of 18.7 percent despite a slowdown in April compared to the previous month.

Elizabeth R. Lee, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (Camap), said industry sales were on track to the target of hurdling the 100,000-unit mark in 2007 "assuming continued implementation" of the used car import ban along with the strong peso.

"April sales (compare to March) showed a decline of 11 percent mainly because of fewer selling days due to the Lent," Lee said. Sales stood at 16,000 in April, as reported in pick-up again in May.

In a joint report with the Trade

FINALE B2

Hikes capital, OKs partnership with Kirin

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lasmot

SAN MIGUEL CORP., SOUTHEAST ASIA'S BIGGEST FOOD AND beverage company, is spinning off its beer and packaging units for eventual listing on the stock exchange.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SMC said it would put its beer operations under San Miguel Beer Domestic, which will become a wholly owned subsidiary of the country's biggest conglomerate.

To further smooth the proposed offering, SMC also sought board approval for its beer business to enter into a strategic partnership with Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. A strategic investor of San Miguel since 2002, Kirin has a 25 percent stake in the SMC.

Sources said that San Miguel Packaging Specialties Inc. (SMPSI), formerly San Miguel Packaging and the umbrella firm for the company's packaging interests here and abroad, would also be going public.

Last month, SMC signed an agreement with long-time joint venture partners Ellison Holdings Inc. to buy the latter's 35 percent equity infusion in SMPSI.

"We believe that stand-alone domestic brewing and packaging operations will enhance our companies' ability to compete more effectively in their industries. An IPO (initial public offer) would raise the each business much needed equity and allow it to grow faster and partner more effectively with other

(SMC) B2

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Shares close slightly higher

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Chevron sells Caltex LPG business in RP to Petron

CHEVRON HOLDINGS (RP) Ltd., a wholly owned unit of San Ramon, California-based Chevron Corp., has sold its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) retail business in the Philippines to Petron Corp.

The divestment by Chevron, which operates the Caltex brand of gasoline stations in the country, includes the sale of Caltex LPG's bottling plant in Batangas City, its LPG cylinders and the use of the Caltex LPG brand for a two-year period.

Sandy Johnson, Chevron country chair for the Philippines and Caltex general manager for retail, said the divestment is in line with the company's strategy to focus on its core businesses of marketing and distributing Caltex-branded motor fuels and lubricant products to retail and commercial customers.

The deal with Petron was made as the basis of a commitment to sell the dealership network to a reliable and reputable LPG supplier, it added.

"The local LPG business underwent evaluation for better alignment with Chevron's global business portfolio," he said.

Chevron said the divestment had the downstream of its LPG retail business, which serves mostly household consumers, is part of a larger strategy to focus on its core businesses of marketing and distributing Caltex-branded motor fuels and lubricant products to retail and commercial customers.

The deal with Petron was made as the basis of a commitment to sell the dealership network to a reliable and reputable LPG supplier, it added.

The statement added that Chevron's decision followed was being monitored constantly since to Petron and the transaction was expected to have no effect on the supply of LPG customers.

"We are confident that Petron will provide the same level of service and product quality to our customers," Johnson said.

Over the next few months, Petron will integrate Chevron's dealers into its nationwide LPG network. The company will likewise convert and rebrand Caltex LPG cylinders to Gasul cylinders over a two-year period.

SMC to list beer, packaging units

From page B1

world class players like Elmi and Silver Swan," said San Miguel president Ramon Ang.

However, details of the IPO were not yet available.

"This will provide both the beer and packaging business the financial flexibility and operating muscle that will boost operations moving forward. We are looking to unlock the potential and underlying value of the assets that Miguel Group. This is something we have been looking at for some time now and with this spin-off, we reach another milestone in our long-range plan to transform San Miguel into a more disciplined, high-performing company," Ang said.

SMC chair Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. said the plan would enhance asset value for San Miguel shareholders.

"We are excited about our plans for delivering San Miguel's long-term growth as our core and non-bureaucratic through our strategy of portfolio transformation," Cojuangco said.

In line with SMC's plan to expand its businesses through acquisitions, pay down debt and balance sheet buybacks, the company said it would increase its authorized capital to 7.5 billion shares from 4.5 billion shares.

The will enable the company to issue 1.5 billion preferred shares as part of a proposed capital raising exercise.

In 2005, San Miguel sought a waiver from the shareholders' preemptive rights on the "issuance of any class of preferred shares related to equity linked or other securities, for property needed for corporate purposes."

SMC is raising capital to finance its diversified business interests, including infrastructure, water and other utilities.

Giving a financial update to support the initiatives yesterday, SMC said it sustained its 2006 pace of growth in the first quarter of 2007.

With the sale of its stake in Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. to Atlantic's The Coca-Cola Co., SMC consolidated net income in the first quarter of 2007 reached ₱4.35 billion, double that of the same period last year.

Consolidated operating income of ₱14.6 billion was 24 percent more than last year as restated San Miguel Brewery Inc. and the absence of Ginebra San Miguel Inc.

Operating income from beer operations reached ₱2.7 billion, 15 percent higher than last year as the business benefited from lower raw material and fuel prices.

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Shares close slightly higher

From page B1

The composite index edged up 4.84 points to settle at 3,333.95. It moved between 3,329.89 and 3,357.10. The broader all-shares index rose 9.95 points to 2,151.66.

Advisers took losers 95 to 94, while 37 stocks were unchanged. A total of 2.6 billion shares worth ₱4.7 billion were traded.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average crossed 13,500 for the first time on Monday, resuming its pre-record rise since the start of the year.

Other currencies ostensible were cautious ahead of the May 14 midterm elections.

"We have to confirm in the next few sessions if that level can hold. If it does, the next resistance would be 3,400," said Arthur Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

Tan said while market sentiment was bullish in general, investors would likely continue to be guarded ahead of next Monday's congressional and local elections. AFP

SM Prime posts ₱1.5-B income in Q1, up 11%

HANS by

MAKL BUILDER SM PRIME Holdings Inc. said its net income rose 11 percent to ₱1.5 billion in the first quarter of 2007 driven by rental revenues from new mall openings.

Gross revenues for the period grew 23 percent to ₱5.6 billion with the operation of five new malls last year, including the group's gem mall, SM Mall of Asia, which opened in May last year.

The other malls that opened last year were in Sta. Rosa in Laguna, Clark in Pampanga province, SM Supercenter Pasig and SM City Lipa in Batangas.

For the first quarter, rental revenues from the malls, which accounted for 63 percent of total revenues, grew 30 percent to ₱3 billion.

Currently, these new malls have an average occupancy level of 97 percent. Same store rental growth was at 7 percent.

Cinema ticket sales grew 19 percent to ₱429 million, as SM's cinemas opened, supported by both domestic and international blockbuster films such as "Rush Hour3," "Resident Evil: Extinction," "300," "Night at the Museum" and "Spider Man 3."

Pushed up by aggressive mall openings last year, operating expenses increased to ₱1.6 billion. Despite this, operating income grew by 17 percent to ₱2 billion during the period.

This year, SM Prime opened SM City Bacolod last March bringing total gross floor area to 3.6 million sq. m.

SM Prime also opened last month the Annex of SM City Cebu, which increased its gross floor area by 86 percent or 307,049 sq. m.

The Cebu mall now has a total 268,611 sq. m., making it the fourth largest mall of SM Prime and the largest in the Visayas region.

"SM Prime will continue to reap the benefits of its continued expansion this year and in years yours to come. Because of this, SM Prime offers enabling innovative service and a strong track record that has built a strong brand franchise for the Filipino consumers. Expect more to come from us as we carry out our goal of bringing these SM malls to provincial communities and expand some of our existing malls that have materially grown and evolved with its markets," SM Prime president Hans T. Sy said.

Other malls scheduled to open in 2007 are SM City Bicutan and SM Supercenter Muntinlupa.

Ongoing expansion of existing malls are also underway.

This includes the Aseanow Discovery Center in the Mall of Asia and SM City Pampanga.

Alaska sees revenues hitting ₱9B in '07 with new brands

Alaska president Wilfred Steven Uytengsu Jr. said following the company's stockholder's meeting yesterday that the purchase of the strong brands would grow Alaska's business over the long term.

Alaska had also been granted the license by ISPR to import, manufacture, distribute and sell in the Philippines, two other liquid milk product brands using the cooking milk brand "Carnation" and sweetened condensed milk brand, "Milkmaid."

Alpine, Liberty and Milkmaid are touted as strong brands in Visayas and Mindanao while Carnation has a strong base in the Northern Luzon area.

Krem Top, meanwhile, has an established record in the food service category.

"This initiative will allow us to pursue long-term growth. This transaction alone will add about ₱9 billion in annual revenues to our business while providing the company with established brands that mirror our company strategy in growing the milk category," Uytengsu told shareholders.

The agreement to buy these brands was sealed last April and Uytengsu expects these brands to pitch in ₱2 billion in total revenues for this year alone.

Vehicle sales up 18.7% ...

Previous page B1

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. kept second place with 14.6 percent of the car hit with sales reaching 5,817 units or 40.3 percent higher.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. dropped to third place with 10.1 percent of the market, selling 4,215 units or an increase of 12.6 percent.

In the commercial vehicle segment, Toyota cornered 51.5 percent of the market. Mitsubishi grabbed 17.4 percent and Isuzu Philippines Corp. held 13 percent.

Toyota was also the top seller of cars, grabbing 36.5 percent of the market segment. Honda had 16.9 percent and Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. held 8.4 percent.

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PLDT group net income flat at ₱8.6B in Q1

By Elizabeth Sanchia-Lucas

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co. yesterday said its consolidated net income for the first quarter was flat at P8.6 billion.

This, according to the company, was due to lower foreign exchange gains and higher corporate income taxes, which ate into earnings growth.

In a presentation to reporters yesterday at the company's headquarters in Makati City, PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno the company had raised its provision for taxes by P0.1 billion in the first quarter in view of the increase in the corporate income tax rate to 35 percent from 32 percent.

Foreign exchange gains in the first quarter this year dropped to P278 million from P1.6 billion in the same period last year due to the appreciation of the peso, which averaged at 46.52 to $1 from 52.49 to $1.

Excluding foreign exchange gains and nonrecurring income, core net earnings in the first quarter grew 21 percent to P8.4 billion year-on-P7.0 billion given higher revenues and lower interest expenses.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan said that at the income level, PLDT was confident it would achieve its net income target of P32 billion this year, up from P30.5 billion in 2006.

Consolidated service revenue from January to March rose 10 percent to P53 billion. The rate despite a 5 percent appreciation in the peso which adversely affected the firm's dollar-linked businesses, which accounted for 20 percent of the PLDT group's revenues. Revenues would have been up 12 percent had this peso-pressure not existed.

Data, broadband and information and communications technology (ICT) revenue was up 21 percent to P16 billion in the first quarter of 2007. PLDT's ICT business includes Internet, Internet protocol-based and multimedia content services.

The 8 percent hike in cellular voice earnings had offset a 6 percent drop in traditional fixed-line voice revenue, resulting in a 1 percent rise in consolidated voice earnings.

Cash flow was robust at P 17.5 billion in the first quarter despite higher capital spending, which hit P6.0 billion in the first three months.

The amount was used to roll out Next Generation Network (NGN) lines, new cellular capacity, expand wireless broadband network, and boost International cable capacity. For the whole of 2007, PLDT set another P28-P32 billion for capex expenditure.

Also, the PLDT group is considering spending another $300 million for acquisitions in the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, officials said. The group is also eyeing for possible purchase of small private telecommunication firms.

"We will continue to look at investment areas that can provide ways to expand growth. In the event cash capex amount do not arise, we will consider the option of returning additional cash to our shareholders in the most efficient manner possible," Pangilinan said during the presentation.

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. and some of the leading telecom companies in Asia spearhead the establishment of Asia-Africa Gateway (AAG) Cable System, which involves a $500-million cable system that will connect Southeast Asia to the United States. PLDT international & carrier business group head Victorino P. Vargas, (1st row, 2nd from right) represented the pheona giant in the signing of the AAG Construction & Maintenance Agreement in Malaysia. Phil Vargas are the representatives of the other participating telecom firms in Asia.

RLC to issue ₱2B in 5-year notes

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. WILL ISSUE P2 billion worth of fixed-rate, five-year notes to raise funds for capital expenditure.

In a disclosure, the company said the notes would carry an interest rate to be determined before the end of May.

RLC has appointed The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. as lead manager.

The company earlier said it was setting aside P7.5 billion for projects in 2007 to take advantage of the booming office space and residential market.

The projects include the construction of a third tower for its "Cyberpark Center" in Bhandaypong and another office building in Quezon City.

RLC also earlier said it was investing P1.5 billion next 2008 finishover of 3,000 square) in new malls, offices, hotel acquisitions and housing projects after raising fresh capital from the stock market.

It is earmarking 60 percent of the P15 billion for new malls in Dagupan, Bulacan, Pico de Hierro, Tagaytay and Davao, as well as for the renovation of existing malls in Manila and Batangas. Another 30 percent will be spent for new office spaces catering to BPO firms.

Also, RLC is planning to build a 1,000-room hotel in Tagaytay which is scheduled for completion in 2009.

Elizabeth S. Lucas

CHOICE KNOWN SOON

Race for BTr top post heats up

By Dante L. Lucas

FOR THE FIFTH TIME DURING HER ADMINIstration, President Macapagal-Arroyo would have to appoint a new national treasurer to oversee the government's fiscal management operations.

Once again, various groups in the public and private sectors are lobbying for their candidates to head the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr), which is an influential force in the financial community despite the state's lesser role in economic development.

Finance Secretary Margarita B. Teves believes the job is critical as the national treasurer is responsible for the prudent management of the government's cash. Apart from having to bet on the treasury bonds for operational use to borrow funds cheaply, Teves said the national treasurer should also search for chances to lighten the government's cash deficit by lengthening the maturity of existing debt as much as possible.

Balancing act

The national treasurer's decisions—along with that of the central bank—help determine how much borrowings will have to pay for bank loans. Commercial banks usually determine the prices of goods and services which everyone pays for. Because of this, however, the banking community and the central monetary authority are always interested in having "their man" running the BTr. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, in particular, has historically exercised a strong influence in the appointment of BTr heads because the office's ability to either help or disrupt the implementation of monetary policies.

"There is a natural tension between the job of the national treasurer and that of the central bank governor," said Jose Vivo Banking Corp. president and CEO Antonio C. Moncupa Jr.

"The treasurer always wants to borrow at the least cost and drive rates down, which may not be in the interests of the central bank in the short term."

Moncupa explained that a national treasurer who was interested only in driving down his borrowing costs might find himself "misplaced" when low interests under inflation and correct sharply in the opposite direction which, in turn, would result in a weaker economy down the road.

Regulator-market players

Banks, for their part, often root for a treasurer who is not too single-minded about driving down interest rates, which result in lower returns income for bondholders.

"So, with any agency, it is always good to have the regulator and the market players not agree to one," Moncupa said.

Former National Treasurer Sergio G. Edeza agrees with the need for understanding between fiscal authorities on one hand and the central bank and the financial markets on the other, but added this understanding should not result in collusion.

"It is important to get along with the BSP, but [the treasurer] must see the delineation of roles," he said. "Their positions can be contradictory at times."

Edeza, who has entered both at the BSP and the BTr said that the central bank must keep its eye on "the bigger picture"—the inflation rate—which may come at the expense of the government's borrowing costs.

Prestigious but low-paying

Prestige remains the main reason for candidates to queue up for the job, but the low pay—just slightly more than P30,000 a month—is the top deterrent.

On top of being penalized until low pay, increased pressures are also loomed from making in the private sector for a year after they quit their government post.

"So you penalize the person twice," said Edeza who now runs the treasury department of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and heads the Money Market Association of the Philippines.

Favorites

Despite this notwithstanding, the race for the influential post is heating up. Officials interviewed by the Inquirer say that Henares has been on the central bank's shortlist for every national treasurer vacancy since 2001. Other central bank favorites include Deutsche Bank country manager Eric Cruz or SEBC Investor Jose Arnulfo Veloso. All three are highly regarded by the international and domestic financial communities although they are hesitant to give up their lucrative private sector careers.

Teves is pushing for the appointment of Land Bank of the Philippines senior executive vice president Alberto R. Cruz Jr., a loyal lieutenant who helped him clean up the bank's balance sheet and streamline its treasury operations.

The Department of Finance insiders, however, is backing Deputy National Treasurer Edmundo L. Hendricks, a career official who has long served as second fiddle in the agency for want of a political backer.

Teves said the Palace's choice for the post might be announced later this week.

At least, if Malacañang upholds a "Cruz to Cruz" succession, foreign bondholders may not notice that it's no longer Omar Cruz running the show," said one banker.

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Geograce stock rights offering starts May 15

EXISTING SHAREHOLDERS OF GEOgrace Resources Philippines Inc. as of May 3, 2007 are eligible to participate in the "one offer share for every three-and-a-half shares held" stock rights offering of the company from May 15 to 21.

The offer price was set at P1 per share.

Geograce is offering stock rights equivalent to 500.46 million common shares to raise up to P500 million, which will be used to fund its project development program, exploration costs, asset acquisitions and additional working capital.

The company is engaged in mining, petroleum exploration, investment acquisitions and management, with presence in Zambales, Palawan and Bukidnon. Its strategic partners include Australia's resource financing Mining NL and Canadian mining and metal refining firm Chemical Vapour Metal Refining Inc.

The company has engaged JP Morgan as its financial adviser for possible capital raising activities, along with specific advisory on cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

The rights offer shares are expected to be listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange on May 25, 2007.

Biofuels standards sought

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA AND Thailand will spearhead efforts to come up with common biofuels standards, which will allow these countries to export their biofuels with less hassle.

"Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia have something in common in terms of having a strong agricultural base. Therefore, we are in the position to develop the biofuels sector," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said. "So it is in this common interest of Tarf Asian countries that we push now for the development of common standards, so that the 'exchangeability' of biofuels will be enhanced in the future," he added.

Lotilla, who attended a recent energy ministers' meeting in Riyadh, said Thai Energy Minister Piyasvasti Amarasunda had agreed that his country and the Philippines should work together in building up the biofuels sector to enforce intra-national links.

A separate meeting with Indonesian special envoy Alimi Shihab yielded the same results.

According to Lotilla, Shihab said the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand—all potential biofuels exporters—should ensure that biofuels and vehicles using such fuels would not be hampered by "artificial barriers to trade."

To facilitate the creation of common biofuels standards in the region, Lotilla said the Philippines had proposed the conduct of a workshop that would allow countries in the region to exchange information on the status of their respective national efforts on developing biofuels standards and to determine the next steps for moving forward. The Department of Foreign Affairs would be helping the Department of Energy get facilitate this workshop, he said.

"The three countries have agreed to come up with the common standards so that we will be able share this to other countries as well. We're organizing that workshop for a leveling of standards among the different East Asian countries," he said. He added that it would be easier to formulate common standards for biofuels since the proponents would be starting from scratch, unlike in the case of oil products, where each country already had its own set of standards.

Banks' FCDU assets hit all-time high of $23.6B

Previous peak recorded in 1997 at $21.7

By Michelle U. Barros

THE COMBINED ASSETS OF THE foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs) of the banking industry reached an all-time high of $25.59 billion in 2006, rising by 13.8 percent from the year ago level.

"This (the 2006 FCDU asset level) surpassed the prior peak of $22.7 billion hit in 1997," the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a consolidated annual yearend.

FCDUs are units of banks that handle transactions involving foreign currencies.

Deposits in FCDUs form another lion of foreign sources for the country, on top of the reserves kept by the BSP.

According to BSP data, a major component of the FCDU assets of banks is investments, including those in the form of securities. As of last year's FCDU assets, investments accounted for $11.494 billion, representing a year-on-year increase of 12.7 percent.

Interbank loans accounted for $8.43 billion of the total assets while loans amounted to $3.65 billion. Collectibles from other banks accounted to $1.889 billion while collectibles from the BSP reached $108 million.

"Asset performance shifted in favor of marketable securities. The proportion of assets held in this type of securities rose to 38.7 percent from 32.9 percent in the previous year," the BSP said.

The liabilities of the FCDU system last year were largely in the form of deposits. ($18.779 billion), which grew by 14.1 percent from the 2005 level.

The BSP said the major beneficiaries of loans provided by FCDUs were the manufacturing, utilities, transportation, storage and communication sectors.

The nonperforming loans ratio of the country's FCDUs improved to 1 percent from the previous year's 1.6 percent. The nonperforming assets ratio also improved to 0.4 percent of total assets from the previous year's 0.7 percent, the BSP said.

Voting is personal

I FIRST VOTED IN 1946. I WAS 20 years old and a high school senior. There are not too many from my batch who will vote next week.

Looking back, my vote has always been based on ideology or partisanship. Voting has usually been a deeply personal act.

Because of my peripatetic assessment career, I have voted, not only in my hometown Naga City, but also in Manila (Tondo and Singalong), Cebu and Davao. Since 1992, I have voted in Makati.

In 1946, I voted Roxas for president. A strong public speaker, he stood my main his stand. One of an industrialized Philippines when he came to campaign in Naga. I then made up my mind to take a share in his vision. I decided to become a nonbusiness employee.

I voted for Ramon Magsaysay. Then I chose Diosdado Macapagal. I remember I voted for Ferdinand Marcos (he really had our hometown). I voted for Cory in the snap election. Then, I chose Erap (despite although I knew he would not win. Against Erap, I voted then. I knew Raul had no chance but I chose him anyway, being a fellow Bicolano. I chose Mar this because I did not want the country to be run by another actor.

Whenever I choose whom to vote as president, governor or mayor, I usually vote for the official running mate, even a Noli de Castro. So split voting for me.

One of the country's most brilliant lawyers ran for vice president. It turned out that in this province, he got only P14 in account (at. In a government clerk at the time, I paid more. I have, ever, voted for the lawyer in his long political career.

I believe a president should have a working majority in the House and the Senate. After I have chosen whom to vote as president, I then vote for most, if not all, of his party-mates in the senatorial slate. So what if I have to vote for someone whose only job on the Senate floor is to vote for whatever the president wants? Do you think the Senators in the House leader and the members of the 10 the Senate are all brilliant lawmakers?

Besides, when you are choosing 12 senators or so, you are not at a buffet dinner where you pick only the dishes you like. As the PNOY senses to do. You are at a set dinner, and you eat whatever is served, from soup to main.

Voting for mayor is even more personal for me. In Makati, I have voted for Binay because we are Makatenos. I also always voted for his predecessor and even others.

Before the invasion of the Iraqis (Dr. and the son of the late Dr. Jalilie Jalil), I was a flying voter. I voted very early in Makati. Then, I drove down to Naga. I arrived there in plenty of time to vote for my high school buddy who was running for mayor. I did not even care who his opponent was. I had dinner at my buddy's house, and got drunk eventually. By the way, my high school chum was one of the best mayors Naga ever had.

Now, at age 81, and 61 years after my first vote, whom will I choose next week? Since I voted for Ate Glo in 2004, I must say I have a working majority in the Senate. I will vote for Team Unity: except Angara, Recto and Olivia. I will replace them with Fellow Bicolano, Escudero, and two others I have yet to choose.

I do not care for an independent candidate. If he cannot run under a party, there must be something wrong with him.

I will vote for Teddy Boy Locsin as congressman. He has done well for my district...and he made a lot of noise during the impeachment and Garchitorena hearings.

Call me selfish, but I will not jeopardize my ties at City Hall. I will again vote Binay and his entire ticket. Why should I vote for someone I do not know personally?

My party list choice is the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives—Apec. They light up the countryside.

My right to vote is one of my most prized possessions. But, choosing whom to vote has usually been a personal act. There is exciting initiatives or responsible ahead this.

CHIANG MAI INITIATIVE

RP agrees to Asean plan to create pool of funds

By Philbuild V. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINES HAS AGREED to the plan of the Asean +3 to create the Chiang Mai Initiative forward with the creation of a common pool of funds that will help members countries facing liquidity problems.

The Philippine delegation pledged its commitment to the plan to the Asean +3 during the Finance Ministers Meeting, which was concluded last Sunday in Kyoto, Japan.

The Chiang Mai Initiative was established in 2000 to protect member countries against acute currency crisis similar to what happened in Asia in 1997.

Under the proposed multilateralized system, which could be operational by next year, all members of the Asean +3 will contribute to the pool of funds.

Under the old system, member countries facing cash flow problems could only borrow from countries it has bilateral currency swap arrangements with.

Some $80 billion were made available for pre-modified country by the bilateral agreements forged under the Chiang Mai Initiative.

"Multilateralizing is a logical step following the bilateral system. This initiative shows that there is a better demonstration of consensus among Asean + 3 for cooperation to protect the region against a possible crisis," said Utari Gana Ganjadi, deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Sumigyunda said a task force within the Asean +3 would craft the guidelines to implement the Chiang Mai Initiative.

The guidelines will state how fund made each member country will contribute to the fund.

He said the contribution would be based on a country's gross international reserves.

Sumigyunda said there would be no third party to hold the pool of funds, but that each country would earmark a portion of its reserves as contribution to the fund.

A country's contribution to the fund will not be physically taken out of its economy.

Funds would be taken out only if another member country asks for help.

Asean groups the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei and the mother economies of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The three non-Asean countries are Japan, China and South Korea.

Sumigyunda said that since the establishment of the Chiang Mai Initiative, no country has so far asked for financial assistance.

Even so, he said, the Asean +3 found a product to put governance that will protect the region from another possible crisis, rather than act only when a problem arises.

SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
A subsidiary of National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC), through its Approved Corporate Budget for 2007, intends to apply the sum of Php 1.5 Billion being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to the cost of the Project described and indicated hereunder. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at BAC opening.

The SHFC now invites eligible, duly licensed Bidders to the supply of goods/services and equipment as follows:

Description	Quantity	Total Cost
Supply and Installation of Air-conditioning Units (for 187 Units)	187	40
Location	Phase 2/12 Power de Roxas, Makati City	
Contract Duration	One month upon receipt of Notice to Proceed	
Delivery Period	One month upon receipt of Notice to Proceed	

The Corporation or its regular bodies is considered in Section 3 of the Bidding Documents (RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act). Bidders should have completed within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Bidders' Qualifications as well as the Technical Specifications, Terms of Bids shall be provided in the Bidding Documents. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from SHFC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below upon submission of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000.00. Bidders' payment shall be in cash made payable to the SHFC. Only Bidding Documents shall be returned/refundable by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The SHFC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on May 16, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at 4th Flr. BDO Plaza, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Bid opening schedule is May 30, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at 4th Flr. BDO Plaza, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The SHFC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
c/o BDO Plaza, BDO Secretariat
4th Flr. BDO Plaza, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel Nos. 7555-8181 locals 2201-2202
Fax No. 813-1348
E-mail Add: info@shfcph.com
Website Add: www.shfcph.com

Atty. EDUARDO T. ABANGCO
BAC Chairman

07th May 9, 2007

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A subsidiary of National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation

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Description	Quantity	Total Cost
Supply and Installation of Air-conditioning Units (for 187 Units)	187	40
Location	BDO Plaza, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	
Contract Duration	One month upon receipt of Notice to Proceed	
Delivery Period	One month upon receipt of Notice to Proceed	

The Corporation or its regular bodies is considered in Section 3 of the Bidding Documents (RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act). Bidders should have completed within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Bidders' Qualifications as well as the Technical Specifications, Terms of Bids shall be provided in the Bidding Documents. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from SHFC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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Atty. EDUARDO T. ABANGCO
BAC Chairman

07th May 9, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE Bldg., 2nd Flr. Gen. Ordonez
cor. General Ordonez St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed applications for alien employment permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
MAGA MITO LOGISTICS PHILS. INC. 6/F Makiniran Centre Bldg. 2212-B Amorsolo St., Salcedo Village Bel-Air, Makati City	Manabu Kobara	General Manager
MAPLE GOLF CORP. 6F, ACC Plaz., Ayala Ave. cor. Trade St., Mandaluyong City MAP Hotel, Manila, Mandaluyong City	Ki-Hoon Ryu	President
NC. I ACTUITY NETWORK SYSTEM (MANIL, INC. Unit 1 Ayo Commercial Condominium 2-11 Commonwealth St., Sub. Area Novo Manila	Kyoung Sook Lee a/k/a "Lee"	Asst. Operations Manager
NETSIS INT'L. TRADING INC. 17-19 6th Ave., Brgy. U.E. Caloocan City Ongoing Shang, Kalaklan City	Jian Wang	Marketing Manager
HONORS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 6F, Pal Plaza Tower, MH DEL Ambulatoryo Brgy. Makati City	Paul David Hartley	Chief Executive Officer
OLYMPIAN LEARNING CENTER INC. (Mongolian Career Assistance Clinic) Malaking, Muntinlupa City	Hyungwoon Cho a/k/a "Dan"	Supervisor
ISLAND INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, INC. (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL) UP Diliman Commercial Center 1008 Roces, Quezon City, Manila, Manila	Hyoseung Moon	Deputy General Manager
PHILIPPINE EDS TECHNO-SERVICE, INC. (PETS) 2/F CTM Ayala Ave., Makati Square, Makati City	Mahipal Yadava	Project Technical Manager Evaluator (Asst. Manager)
EDDS PHILIPPINES CORP. (now known as EDDS Corporation Center) No. 121 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Rohini Handke	Treasurer
DYNEX ASIA, INC. 2nd Makiniran Gumeli Center, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Kyungho Seo	Korean Client Support
DYNEX ASIA, INC. 2nd Makiniran Gumeli Center, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Seoung Yeol	Korean Client Support
DYNEX ASIA, INC. 2nd Makiniran Gumeli Center, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Minjin Jung	Korean Client Support
ROBERT BOSCH, INC. 14/F, LV, Lot 2F (PBL), 6772 Ayala Avenue cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City	Ka Chung Lee	General Manager
MAKATI DIAMOND LA HOTEL & RESORT INC. Ayala Avenue cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City	Kie Man Wu	Director / Executive Chef

If you have any information that can in the above mentioned application, please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

Form DOLE-IACAD-AEP-01 Labor Clearance Application and Processing
Alien Employment Permit with DOLE-IACAD Schedule

07th May 9, 2007

Local firms to join Asia's biggest IT fair

By Rascel W. Domingo

TEN LOCAL FIRMS INCLUDING Philippine Jeng Director Telephon Co. and Globe Telecommunications are joining Asia's biggest information technology trade show in Singapore next month to promote the Philippine brand of services, especially outsource communications.

Stephen Tan, chief executive of Singapore Exhibition Services Inc., SEC, organizer of Communitech 2007, said in a briefing that the interactive, digital media and entertainment segments would be active participants in the show.

"Overseas buyers find the media and entertainment industry in the Asia-Pacific market will hit $411 billion by 2009," Tan said. "The Philippine government has continued to support the participation of Philippine companies at Communitech to help in creating a bigger market for them," he said.

Local firms slated to join in 2006 when the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions organized a group to showcase the country's telecommunications and software development sectors.

Participants in 2006 from PLDT and Globe, other participants include IT Institute Inc., Electronic Network Power, Interior Communications, Institute of Electronics Engineers Inc. of the Philippines, Mabuhay Satellite Corp., Philippine Software Industry Association, Software Effective Solutions and Smart Integrators.

In a statement, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the presence of local firms in Communitech aims at promoting the Philippine brand of ICT services to fairs and the world.

Trade Assistant Secretary Fe Aguinaldo-Nieto, who is also Clarex executive director, had reported that local firms clinched contracts worth a total of $6.2 million in last year's fair, which showed their hold at the niche of value added services in the emerging content in mobile phones.

DA expands hatcheries to tap fish export mart

By Ricky R. Rosca

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE wants the Philippines to get a bigger share of the multi-billion fish export business with the construction and expansion of multi-species fish hatchery facilities in Iloilo, Bulacan and Davao.

"These three hatcheries will supply quality fry and fingerlings of high value food fishes such as tapa, lapu-lapu (grouper), apahap (snapper) and asiagan to local fish cage operators in existing municipal water ponds," Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director Malcolm Bonoan said in a statement.

A P15-million hatchery in Tiwi, Tawi is due for completion in July this year, while some P6 million had already been allocated for the same purpose and expansion of the multi-species hatchery in Sta. Lucia, Iloilocos.

With these hatcheries, cage operators could easily shift production from bangus to tapa, lapu-lapu and other high-value species, which command higher prices especially when sold live to Davao, Japan and other countries in the southeast Asian region, Bonoan said.

According to data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), the Philippines exported some 7,140 metric tons of lapu-lapu, valued at $14.9 million, in 2006.

Yet, agriculture officials admit exports of lapu-lapu alone would increase by two- to three-fold in the first year of operation by the three hatcheries, compared to the 2006 level," Bonoan said.

The $4.5-million (Eleventy-seven) hatchery for the Bulacan culture facility, too, is fund projects that would help farmers in performance in 2007.

According to 23-66 percent of total catch, the fisheries sector has the biggest gains among all agricultural sectors with an 8.32-percent growth in the first quarter of 2007.

In 2006, fisheries also registered the biggest gain with a 5.31-percent growth.

LBP Land Bank Kinabu Development Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank Kinabu Development Corporation (LBKDC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all contractors, registered and with CAR (Contractors Accreditation Board) No. [illegible] by Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and licensed to do business in the Philippines to apply for eligibility and submit their bids on the following projects:

Activities	Date/Time	Venue
1. Receipt and acquisition letters of intent including registration	[illegible]	[illegible]
2. Issuance of Eligibility Documents	[illegible]	[illegible]
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	[illegible]	[illegible]

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the Accounting Office, 8th Flr. Land Bank Plaza, 1598 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, starting [illegible] and processed upon the submission by the Prospective Bidder of the BAC attached hereto of the Corporation accompanied by a duly accomplished request as in Annex [illegible] of Eligibility Documents.

LBKDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein to mitigate technicalities or irregularities in the bidding for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids or any claim and to withdraw any bid thereafter, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to pursue the bid and award subsequent to LBKDC.

LBKDC reserves the right to change the BAC date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conferences, accepting and opening of bids. Bid notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBKDC to bidder.

For further details, please call Mr. Allan Rabanal - Area 1, Mandaue at [illegible]

[illegible]
Chairman, BAC

[illegible]

GSIS willing to condone ₱3.5-B debt of gov't

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE System (GSIS) said it was willing to condone P3.5 billion of the remaining debts of the national government.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said the amount was half the P7 billion worth of outstanding liabilities of the national government to the state pension fund.

"We GSIS and the national government) are already negotiating, and the GSIS is willing to bargain or compromise," Garcia told reporters. He said the GSIS was amenable to condoning half of the government's remaining debts, especially since the performance of the latter in settling its obligations has improved.

Half of the P7 billion outstanding debt of the government to the GSIS is composed of interest, while the other half represented surcharges, both of which were imposed because of the delayed payment of the employers' share to the contributions of GSIS members to the pension fund.

In January, the government, through the Department of Budget and Management, already paid the principal amount of its debt to the GSIS worth P6.5 billion.

"The GSIS is willing to condone the surcharges, which is about half of the P7 billion," Garcia said.

The liabilities of the government to the GSIS, which dates back to 1998, was blamed by finance officials on the budget woes experienced in the past. But the government is improving fiscal position allowed it to finally settle the long overdue obligations.

In the late 1990s, the government waded to post budget deficits following the financial crisis that hit southeast Asian countries. The crisis, which shook corporate earnings, resulted in lower tax collection by the government.

The budget deficit, however, has been on a decline. Last year, the gap hit only ₱64.8 billion compared with the ₱146.3 billion recorded in 2000. This year, the government expects the deficit to be trimmed further to only ₱63 billion and to zero by 2009.

The GSIS' willingness to condone P3.5 billion of the national government's debt came following its assurance that it recently earned ₱27 billion from its investments in the stock market.

Garcia also said the pension fund manager was very liquid, with the improvement of its collection efficiency rate to 95 percent from only 60 percent in 2002. GSIS attributes the improved rate of its collection to the collection of cost features by members to improvement of its database and stricter collection system.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B7
MOTORING
Like Cesar D. Manzanares

We'll help you learn.

TECH DRIVE

14 lessons from a Prius hybrid car

Text and photos by Tess R. Salazar

EVERYBODY KNOWS the hybrid electric/gasoline Prius from Toyota isn't yet available in this country, no thanks to the ridiculously high price tag and the seeming inability of the government to give interested buyers substantial tax breaks.

So why are motorists seeing a couple of them running around the streets of Metro Manila nowadays? Well, because Motoring ran across for one of them as we recently toured the (most) busy of motoring.

What touched me, as expected, a delightful drive along the country side and around the congested areas of the city with the least worries of having up too much gasoline. But the experience was tinged with much longing, as well.

Longing for the day when the Prius' retail price would be dashed from its imposing P1 to 1.5 million to somewhere around P1 to 1.3 million. Longing for the year 2000 when, hopefully, the Prius would by then totally shed off its dependence on gasoline and be a full-fledged "plug-and-play" 100 percent electric car, or PHEV, or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, as others may like to do them). Longing for that same year when the Prius would be competing for attention along with other plug-in electric cars, such as GM's Volt, effectively bringing the price of such kinds of cars further down.

We all know that this will come, anyway. So, while anticipating for that dream drive of an ecologically-conscious motorists, here's what we learned while roaming around with the Prius.

THE ENERGY monitor on the screen tells you which engine is doing the work.

HISTOGRAM of the fuel consumption on the touch screen

1 Prius is all about energy, and that means maximizing its use while minimizing its loss. The car gets its power from two sources, the gasoline engine and the electric engine. The electric engine is powered by a battery which is alternately charged by the gasoline engine and the kinetic forces acting on the car (see number 4).

2 The on-board computer manages the energy "and the fun"—basically ordering which engine in cars one or all (sometimes both are on), depending on the car's speed and rate of acceleration/deceleration. A dash-board touch-screen monitor provides the driver and passengers information as to which engines are currently being utilized, and color-coded energy flowcharts tell where power is flowing from and where it's going to. The same touch-screen monitor also provides the control for the car sound-system and audio entertainment system, by the way. Sounds complicated? Actually, all the driver has to do is

(CONTINUED) B3-4

MY precious! Skyrocketing fuel prices and an unreachable Prius

WINDSHIELD
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REPAIR
NOT REPLACEMENT! EMISSION CTC!
MANILA MIDWEST

UMC UNVEILS NISSAN FRONTIER BRAVADO

Universal Motors Corporation unveils the latest in their line of Frontier pickup trucks, the Nissan Frontier Bravado. The Nissan Frontier Bravado fuses affordability and functionality. A rugged hauler stocked with creature comforts and aesthetic features you'd find on luxury models. Especially made for those who want the power of a truck with a price that costs less than a sedan. Perfect for entrepreneurs who demand tenability for their business or individuals investing on an entry level vehicle.

The Bravado offers attractive features such as keyless entry system for convenience, appealing design details such as fog lamps, fabric seats, improved tires/alloy wheels and full rear bumper. All loaded with the dependable strength and legendary reliability of the Frontier.

Whether business or pleasure, the Frontier Bravado is up for the challenge. Backed by the testament of the Frontier long haul virtue, it truly is the new Muscle ng Pilipino.

Frontier Bravado
MUSCLE
NG PILIPINO

Maybe your first car shouldn't be a car.

Introducing the Nissan Frontier Bravado.

Frontier Bravado
MUSCLE
NG PILIPINO

FRONTIER
NISSAN
3 YEARS

THE OUTLANDER's car-based design translates into good handling and considerable ride-improved marks

GETTING BACK INTO THE GAME

Mitsubishi dishes out latest SUVs

Text and photos by Charles E. Bahan

MITSUBISHI MOTORS is getting back into the game for the first time since the fiscal year 2002, the Tokyo-based automaker has missed a profit of 873 million (P3.6 billion) citing an unsustainable turnover of [illegible] 4 percent, among others.

Mitsubishi expects to sustain such movement/ growth, a new study endorsed by Mitsubishi executives here in the Philippines.

"The result also more accelerated development of new models that would bring renewed optimism to [illegible] our brand and

(MITSUBISHI B2)

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If you think about it

It's as spacious as an SUV, sleek as a sedan.

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Pack an entire family's luggage and throw in a golf set.

Travel in complete comfort and style.

Worry-free driving with disc brakes on all 4 corners.

From hotel to grocery, it looks sophisticated.

It's the only one in its class.

Drive with great ease and convenience.

This is it.

The Chevrolet Optra Wagon.

Also available: Optra Sedan 1.6 EX

Enjoy the luxury of a sedan and the versatility of an SUV with the Chevrolet Optra Wagon. It has a 1.6 DOHC, E-Tec II 4 cylinder engine that delivers increased performance. The Optra Wagon's 60:40 split folding rear backseat allows more than enough room, even for your furniture. It's sleek, sophisticated and most of all, saves you money. The Chevrolet Optra Wagon is the lowest-priced wagon you can buy, for only P863,000 (manual transmission).

CHEVROLET

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Urdaneta (075) 568-4445
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Cebu (032) 419-4110

MINDANAO
Cagayan de Oro (088) 881-1909
Davao City (082) 234-4071
Gen Santos (083) 302-3083

- Engineering Excellence for a Cleaner Tomorrow -

EVERY SUV boasts bonnet-rise heritage behind the Pajero, a 13-time overall winner—including seven straight from 2001 until now—of the Dakar Rally.

THE ENDEAVOR'S gas-mechanical styling evokes speed, motion and power.

Mitsubishi dishes . . .

From page B6-1

help Mitsubishi become one of the country's top two players," said Froilan Quiatnguin, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines (MMPC) marketing services.

The bet is, MMPC may have already started the marketing drive when it recently introduced its three sport utility vehicle (SUV) models.

Solid products

And from what the morning media experienced while taking the all-new Pajero, Endeavor and Outlander models for a short spin around Subic International Theater way last week, MMPC may have in their hands three solid products to dominate the country's SUV market.

Bannering the company's renewed vitality is the 4x4 Pajero, now sporting a much bolder yet cleaner look as well as choice of two engine variants—a 147 horsepower, 3.8 V6 Mitsubishi innovative valve-timing electronic control (MIVEC) gasoline engine or a 165-horsepower, fuel-turbocharged and intercooled 3.2 liter 16-valve diesel with a new common rail direct injection system diesel engine.

"Every SUV boasts bonnet-rise heritage behind the Pajero, a 13-time overall winner—including seven straight from 2001 until now—of the Dakar Rally, the world's most gruelling off-road race. Every useful innovation and technology derived from this race has trickled down into the 4th generation Pajero," said Quiatnguin.

The all-new Pajero, which is imported from Japan, gets a new look that MMC hopes will entice previous buyers back in the fold.

The gasoline variant sells at P2.588 million while the diesel at P2.688 million.

Another strong bet

Designed and built in the United States, the Endeavor is another strong bet MMTC hopes to be able to key in dominating the country's mid-sized SUV market.

In this edition, Mitsubishi's Endeavor receives a fresh front end accentuated by a new stylish chrome grille and there's a new styling of the rear bumper and the addition of a rear bumper extension.

The Endeavor is what is known as a crossover—a vehicle built from a car platform, but with the look and feel of the interior space of an SUV.

"The Endeavor is one of the few crossovers having the look and feel of a rugged off-road SUV, yet with the ride, handling and power of a sedan-type sports sedan," said Arlan Reyes MMTC assistant manager for advertising and promotions.

Based on this writer's first impressions, the Endeavor (which shares the same platform of Mitsubishi Galant and Lancer) felt light and stiff, tracks straight while it does not feel top-heavy in turns. Its impressive 255 horsepower—courtesy of its 3.8 liter 24-valve V6 gasoline engine—translated into quick off-the-line starts and should provide ample passing power when needed.

The P2.350-million Endeavor is also equipped with a 650-watt Rockford Fosgate sound system with six in-dash CD/MP3 boxes with nine speakers including a subwoofer. Rockford Fosgate is a world leader in the design and manufacturing of high-end automobile sound equipment.

Car-based design

Like Endeavor, the compact Outlander has a car-based design (sharing its underpinnings with Mitsubishi's much-touted Lancer) that translates into good handling and a comfortable ride on paved roads.

This second-generation Outlander is a solid choice if you're shopping for a compact SUV. It has the available all-wheel-drive system, high driving position and ample cargo space that we hope we have come to expect from this segment. Just as it is all spun with its European-inspired styling, advanced technology and lively handling.

Imported here as a completely built-up unit from Japan, the Outlander comes in two variants—the P1.488 million GLS and the P1.688 million GLS Sport.

Both variants are powered by an all-new, all-aluminum 3.0 liter, 24-valve V6 gasoline engine (mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission) that delivers 226 horsepower.

While both variants are nearly identical exterior-wise as well as in interior appointments, the GLS Sport comes equipped with a 650-watt Rockford Fosgate sound system with six in-dash CD/MP3 boxes with nine speakers (including a rear 10-inch subwoofer).

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK TWICE.

CHEVROLET OPTRA SEDAN 1.6 LS

As low as
₱75k Downpayment*

TABLE OF DOWNPAYMENTS :

MODEL	SRP	DOWNPAYMENT
Optra Sedan 1.6 LS Manual	₱ 746,000	₱ 75,000
Optra Sedan 1.6 LS Automatic	₱ 786,000	₱ 79,000
Optra Sedan 1.6 SS Manual	₱ 793,000	₱ 80,000
Optra Sedan 1.6 SS Automatic	₱ 832,000	₱ 84,000
Optra Wagon 1.6 SS Manual	₱ 863,000	₱ 87,000
Optra Wagon 1.6 SS Automatic	₱ 902,000	₱ 91,000

CHEVROLET OPTRA FEATURES

- Total Noise Reduction System
- 6-in-dash CD player
- 4-wheel disc brakes
- All power features/amenities
- Driver side airbag
- 60:40 split folding rear backrest
- Anti-lock brake system
- Foglamps
- 40.64 cm (16") alloy wheels (SS variants only)
- 205 R16 tires (SS variants only)
- Wrap around body kit (SS variants only)
- Available in manual and automatic variants
- Rear spoiler (for Chevrolet Optra Sedan 1.6 SS only)
- Roof spoiler (for Chevrolet Optra Wagon 1.6 SS only)
- Tonneau cover & cargo net (for Chevrolet Optra Wagon only)

*For Chevrolet Optra Sedan 1.6 LS Manual
Promo ends on May 31, 2007. For DEALER Permit No. 1412, Series of 2007

CHEVROLET

TESTING the Endeavor's cornering stability

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza is currently pursuing her studies and will resume her usual.

ON THE ROAD
Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

14 lessons. . .

From page B6-1

of hard and it rises like any automatic transmission car. The computers does all the "sensing."

3 Sensors are present on almost all controls including accelerator pedal, hybrid battery and CVT transmissions. They also sense the load of the car. The hybrid ECU (electric control unit) similar to the ECU of a personal computer) is not a brain that determines how much power is needed to be drawn from the engine and how much from the electric motor.

4 Stopping produces energy. The Prius' regenerative braking technology recovers that when drivers step on the brakes, the motor converted to the life becomes a generator, key to the Prius is able to redirected that braking energy to the motor/generator, and it's

5 How can a 1.5-liter Prius, with a body as big as a 1.8-liter Altis, feel like it's been transplanted with an engine of a two-liter sedan especially during uphill runs? The answer lies in its double engines. The gasoline engine may produce a measly 77 horses, but when you combine that with the 68 horses of the electric motor, you effectively harness over 134 horses (the peak of power). The electric motor's characteristic high torque is also an immense help on the uphill climb engines work during many climbs).

6 The power-on switch is the feature set a gamers at computer This takes some getting used to. You don't turn any keys here. Just push a button, and wait for the display to say "ready." Then some buttons after which drives."

7 The Prius shares its cool transaxle (literally ...ddle) when it's going slow. That means, in stop-and-go or bike rides, it actually consumes less gasoline per kilometer compared to smaller engine cars. The electric motor is programmed to take over during slow runs. Sometimes, at certain cruising speeds, the electric motors can run the car on its own. Even beside the sound of silence? It's running on smooth asphalt at 60 kph and hearing nothing but wind being silent.

8 Don't panic when you hear nothing from The engine has. As long as your on-board computer says it's running, it is running. The shift from gasoline engine to electric engine when the car is slowing down while entering the expressways tollgates can be subtle but noticeable, the feeling that just like an up and/or the engine stopped's comes to mind. But you do get used to it in a Prius.

9 The Prius Salaysay's cycle encyclopedia engine installed was designed specifically for for hybrid, according to professional passengers LP mechanical engineering professors Alexander V. Petrov and Edwin N. Quiroz.

The Salaysay's cycle engine's compression stroke has been shortened because the intake valve is closed late so that the fuel becomes an overexpanded gas, which is bad if you need horsepower. However, the electric motor's strength (its low-end torque) more than compensates for this problem.

10 The continuously variable transmission (CVT) for smooth climbs than conventional as all speed ranges is not non-existent that in the Prius the CVT does not use belts but a planetary gear system.

Ordinary CVTs are run by cone pulleys that expand or contract and a belt rides over these pulleys as the car effectively creates an infinitely variable gear ratio. The problem with this is that the belt wears out sooner or later. A properly geared system such as that of the Prius does away with the belt, eliminating the need to replace maintenance belts.

11 When the electric battery is running low (at two bars or less), the gasoline engine comes on for a few minutes and charges the battery.

12 We did a comparative fuel test between the Prius, the 1.5-liter Vios, and the LPG-fueled 1.3-liter Vios. Here are the results: On highway drive, the Prius' mileage was at 27 km/liter, the Vios 1.5 at 20 km per liter (drive at the same time on the same route), in city driving (each hour between 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.) the Prius registered 20 km per liter, Vios 1.5 liter DSL dashed out 11 km per liter (driven current style). A fuel consumption run in the United States showed that Prius' mileage is 30 to 35 km/liter.

To save fuel costs, the cars lost out during the highway runs were headed of Total Vito Cruz which, during the Holy Week, gave the highest fuel discounts among all fuel stations at 35 per liter. The cars were never fueled by Total on Shaw Boulevard (which offers the best DPL rebating system among all Total stations).

13 There's an AT mode on the left side of the dash, board near the side-view mirror. Pushing this AT button gives the driver full-time electric power for speeds up to 42 kph. For an On on 3 km, or depending on the battery's charge levels.

14 The motor can still run even if the engine's off. This is because the battery's compressor is electric-powered.

It definitely sounds like Toyota has enhanced all possible means to keep the Prius as environment-friendly as possible. If only it could be as gasoline-friendly as well.

TM and Bliss exit. I've grossly rich! Shopping-tights somewhere having a car with a logo like this.

DYEET drop-rooms. Total Blunt retention hook up the Prius and Vios (LPG).

MotorScope

Honda Cars Makati sweeps Top in Sales awards

HONDA CARS MAKATI INC. SWEPT THE TOP IN SALES AWARDS DURING the 2007 Honda dealers convention held recently at the Expo Wizata, Clark field, Pampanga. HCMI or Honda Cars Makati grabbed most awards at the convention as the biggest dealership in the country and received the following awards: HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES INC.'s sales targets

Recognized during the convention were Honda Cars Pasig (HCP) as one of the top sales performers, HCMI's inaugural Sterling managed overturned as the No. 1 Top Sales Supervisor of the year.

Honda Automotive Sales Executive Sales Recognitions were given to HCMI sales executives Cledor Sam Rocio, Jino Carlo Reagalio, Dennis Lanes Enriquez, Rhonda Evangelista, Ms. Ella Felgencio and Betty Anthony Castro, all of them have sold at least 300 units since 1996.

Wet Look warranty covers insurance repairs

IT ALREADY OFFERS THE LONGEST WARRANTY ON PAINT PROTECTION, Now Wet Look, the authority in car refinishing, is offering the longest warranty ever recognized.

Benny Tolosa, president of Wet Look, said car owners have no reason not to follow up of their shiny car through time. Mahalin declared Wet Look now gives a 2-year warranty on all repairs, regardless if it's being paid by an insurance company or not.

Tolosa said the warranty is issued by a warranty certificate that contains the repair details, including the code of the paint used. The code is what Looks patiently waits to know the exact mixture for a perfect color. Every code represents a unique paint mixture—no guesswork involved.

Wet Look continues to utilize only premium Dupont paints. Such premium paints color coating and resistance chips—ideal for cars frequently going up and down expressways after being exposed to the elements for more than two years.

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chela Bautista Formoso Chief of Correspondents Pam Pascor

2BU! SURVEY

Who's your favorite politician?

By Miss Mark M. Sabio
2bU! Correspondent

IN A COUNTRY WHERE POLITICIANS are usually regarded as money-hungry, self-serving and neo-faced liars, I didn't expect to get a lot of replies when I asked people about their favorite politicians. Surprisingly, there was a deluge of answers. While some gave funny ones, most of the respondents enumerated accomplishments, strengths and other irresistible traits that make their five politicians deserving of a seat in the government. Other people may find the following answers questionable, but one thing is definite: The youth of today know what they want in their leaders. I hope the hopefuls are reading this.

My favorite politician is the late Senator Raul Roco. He's the president the country never had. —Carlo Fecarotta

Antonio Trillanes. He's strong and determined. He fought for three rights regardless of the consequences and will say/fight for same. —Aurora JP Mendoza

Chiz Escudero. He's my favorite because he seems to have the heart and objectives of a great and incorruptible politician. He seems to have a mind and the convictions to be a very good legislator. His being a lawyer gives him the edge to know what laws are to be passed and implemented. —Mitos Ayala-Jadie

Joker Arroyo and Chiz Escudero. Both of them fight for what they believe is right. —Pia de Villa

The only politician I admire and respect is FVR because of his involvement in peace and rural development. —Thess Aragon

Pray Gacud is that his name? The one graduates from Cagayan ate. It's grounded and real. His politicians stoppings at all. I can't vote he. —Jay Casilan

I like Mike Pangilinan because he stands by his principles. —Lavender Gualdrón

Loren Legarda, because of her crisp white dress. Bilding. —Mayvahn Aguilar

Chiz Escudero. Young, smart, strong, independent and his looks takes aside. He has set up goals for a Filipinos that are attainable and believable enough. He doesn't need anyone's power to make it because he knows he is in for the betterment of the country. —KJ Bartolo

Joker Arroyo! Kasi pag bad ka, lagot ka! He is someone with convictions and openly fights for what he thinks is right. He never does something for publicity stunts. I hope he gets reelected. —Ria Pantecoste

I like Chiz Escudero because he's charismatic, smart, very calm and has fresh ideas. I can't recall an instance when he hasn't/won't get over an irritating issue thrower at him. —Nico Estrella

Joker Arroyo. He is credible for me. —Anna Ruth de Guzman

My favorite politician is Miriam Santiago because she is just so damn hilarious and wants her pesobans on her shorts. Other points on the usefulness of politicians on most at this point. That is, apart from personal reinvestments.) —Jian Sampayan

Joker Arroyo because he's not running just for GMA's impeachment like the 10 candidates. On the other hand, he's not a puppet like the other Team Unity candidates. He stood by what he believed in. Sus served well and has already proven himself. —Gabbie Rixabal

President Macapagal Arroyo is the epitome of today's empowered woman! I have always looked up to her even when she was my professor at the Ateneo de Manila. I believe in her ideals for a stronger republic! —Gregory Vera Cruz

Joker Arroyo! Because he looks like a bride boy when he smiles and a dragon when

WHO'S O

The 2bU! ballot box

2bU! rocks election time with a special that we hope will inspire you to actively participate in the upcoming polls. This issue is packed with election-related stories: your own thoughts on the polls (courtesy of Rock Ed Radio), our protest against those who bombard our phones with propaganda, a sensational debate, and things you can do to make a difference. Like logging on to www.iwatch.ph and joining "Makinis, Please!," an arts, film, photography and music festival tomorrow at the Amoranto Stadium that aims to rally for clean elections. It doesn't matter if you're too young to actually cast your vote. Election time is yours too, and there is always something you can do.

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CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		2	9	1	5	3		
	3						6	
5								
6								
4				8	1	5	9	7
7								2
3								9
	1						4	
		8	3	5	2	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	6	4	2	8	1	5	9	7
8	9	2	5	6	7	1	4	3
1	7	5	3	9	4	6	2	8
5	8	1	7	2	3	4	6	9
4	3	6	9	1	8	7	5	2
7	2	9	6	4	5	3	8	1
9	5	3	8	7	6	2	1	4
6	1	8	4	3	2	9	7	5
2	4	7	1	5	9	8	3	6

Information, please

By Jessica Hermoso
24/7 Contributor

KNOW THEIR JINGLES BY heart but have no clue what their platforms are? Don't know where to go on election day? Have no fear, online vote guides are here!

www.ivote.ph

"I think therefore I vote" is the catchy phrase plastered on the homepage of this youth-friendly website. Aside from the platforms of candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives and the advocacies of the parties, the site also features helpful information for first-time voters such as where to go on election day, what to do if one's name is not on the voter's list, and how to guard one's vote. The site also has a handy compilation of news links, senate and presidential debate schedules, and a blog. World Youth Alliance, IJF Lingkod Bayan, Junior Chamber International Makati and Channel News Asia are the forces behind this website.

WWW.PHILVOTERS.NET

www.philvoters.net

This online voter's guide contains candidates' qualifications and their stand on select national issues—their legislative agenda for job creation, their opinion on Charter Change, and how they plan to spend their pork barrel allocation. The site is a team effort of Newsbreak Online and the National Democratic Institute.

www.i-vote.ph

Key in "Election Files" in the search box of this website and you'll be led to a treasure trove of information compiled by no less than the Philippine Center of Investigative Journalism. Although the page was created for the 2004 Presidential elections, the links on the sidebar still lead you to an online presence verification service, a sample ballot for viewing, tips for reading surveys and responsible voting, and more.

WWW.I-SITE.PH (host) and www.ivote.ph

Who's your favorite politician?

From page C1

So's mud! --Arlie Uncon

Kiko Pangilinan. He has a good platform for the youth and a promising plan for economic growth. Add to that, he has the guts to run as an independent candidate. It only shows that he is confident and does not need any party to back him up. Just ask Sharon Cuneta for his side. **--Abbey Valenciano**

Our leaders. Principled. **--Jimi Tiemsin**

I guess it's Alan Cayetano. Clear message, catchy not-so-ad libed and effective, it shows he can use resources properly. Now hired pond for our system. **--Bastard King**

Ping Lacson because he's strict when it comes to law enforcement and is disciplined. But with the current love story, it's Mitch Jennings for soon-she's brilliant and crazy. **--Johnna Ramirez**

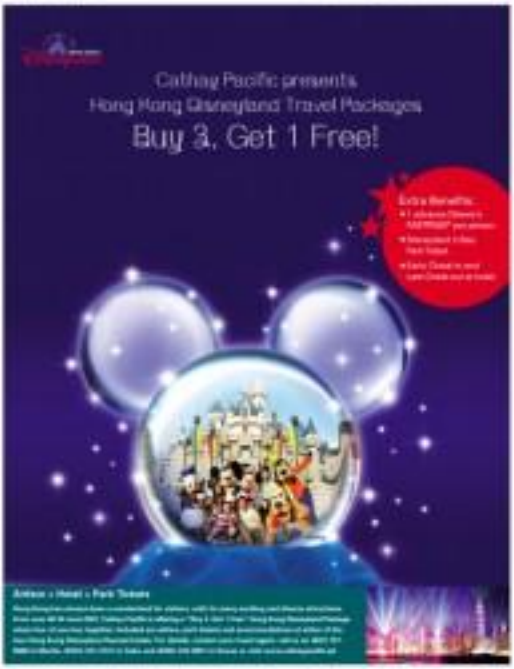
I'm impressed by Philippine Department of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano. He has set tangible goals for Philippine tourism and treats it as a marketing brand. His strategy to increase the number of tourists in the country works—the numbers talk. Chin Ha, endorsements, too, for being a sports advocate. **--Georgina Rocha**

Ah, hmmm, say la, works politician? Since politics in the Philippines is a form of entertainment, I would have to say to go formula is still my favorite politician. He still cracks me up. **--Bruce Balfour**

There are a serious answer because there really ain't one particular politician that I like but I must say that Pangasi Pichay's "Hanim sa Semalo" ragline really did catch my attention. It's just too funny but it works! **--Alyanna Martinez**

I'm really in love with Bayan Muna! I'm Ate's total fan. You wouldn't know anything bad about him or his work. A very decent and honest politician. **--Aubrey Miles**

E-mail the author at marksalitar_chua@yahoo.com



ANNA Gacad of the UP Debate Society throws the camera a giddy grin while candidates speak on stage.

WHO SAYS the youth are uninvolved? Ateneo debaters Jomes Altamora and Faith Bangsa mingle with Manila's Guillermo Lao.

NCCD and Cayetano warm up outside the auditorium.

Youth grill candidates in debate forum

By Jessica Hermoso
INQ7 Contributor

FIRST-TIME VOTERS, THOSE aged 18-21, are four million strong, according to Manuel secretary-general Guillermo Luz. Fourth voters, those aged 18-25, on the other hand, make up the majority of the voting public.

Because of their power, it is the youth's responsibility to get to know what the candidates stand for.

That's just what more than 100 college students did last April 23 when they attended *DBE*2007*, a debate among senatorial candidates organized by JCI Dekada Manila, UP Debate Society and Ateneo Debate Society for the benefit of young first time voters.

Five senatorial candidates participated in the event: Martin Bautista, Jesse Robredo, and Adrian Sison from Bagumbayan, Sonia Roco from Genuine Opposition, and Alan Peter Cayetano.

The candidates were grilled by a panel made up of five from UP Sharmila Buenviaje, Scott Antolin, Ateneo Opinion columnist Rina Jimenez-David, ABC5 newsanchor Michael Tolcdo and Luz.

The questions ranged from "Tell us about your stand on artificial contraception" to "What is your opinion on government education for state universities?" to "Why is your hair long?" (directed toward Paredes).

The candidates were expected to explain and support on issues such as the population curve, brain drain, globalization, political dynasties, and the extrajudicial killings of journalists and activists.

Although they managed to chuckle play a few campaign slogans in between questions, their answers were mostly direct to the point.

For instance, Robredo said his party was against any form of artificial contraception. (The answer to why his hair is long? "It's a symbol of my crusade versus graft and corruption.")

Cayetano, meanwhile, said that in the spirit of freedom of choice, he is not against artificial contraception. However, he doesn't want the government to shoulder the costs of contraceptives.

Regarding state subsidies for universities, for UP in particular, Sison said, "My stand here is that let's look deeply into how UP is being managed. Maybe they need to purify and re-do their own, and be partly subsidized."

Bautista, on the other hand, criticized the former administration for making debt payments top priority and proposed that the government "renegotiate with creditors to relieve bad debts."

Adding to the discussion of budget concerns, Bautista called for the repeal of the "dangerous" Automatic Appropriations Law, which allows the executive branch to make independent decisions on budget allocations.

The sharp and thorough answers that are hard to find in mainstream media could very well be attributed to the debate format, which prodded the candidates to explain their platforms.

"Arguing does not necessarily mean people are angry with each other," said Lolita Claudio of the Ateneo Debate Society explaining that debating actually aids in building democratic maturity.

"Public debates among candidates clarify the principles and beliefs they stand by," added Inia Gacad of the UP Debate Society.

With inquiring minds, a critical habit and a drive to discuss, participants of *DBE*2007* dispersed the stereotype of indifference attributed to our generation. Hopefully, it will continue on to the youth's well-placed votes on election day.

*Haven't there at DBE*2007? Watch the video and hear what the senatorial candidates said by typing in "DBE2007" on www.youtube.com.

SENATORIAL candidates Jesse Paredes, Alan Peter Cayetano, Adrian Sison, Sonia Roco and Martin Bautista discuss population growth, among other topics.

Senate bets take part in a debate and get their message across to young voters

STUDENTS take notes and list eccentricity to senatorial candidates at *DBE*2007.

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24/7 LIFESTYLE

Let's rally for clean elections

Rock musicians, poets and artists gather to deliver the message of young Pinoys: 'honest and peaceful elections, please!'

AT SUNSET ON MAY 10, THE Thursday prior to the polls, young Filipinos will rally for clean elections.

"Malinis, Please!" is an arts, film, photography and music festival at the Amoranto Stadium.

The musicians of Rock Ed Philippines will perform: Noel Cabangon, Rockstar'ter, Sugo Pengee, Paolo Santos, Joey Ayala, Cynthia Alexander, Upthenumbers, Cooling Numbers, Chicosci, Parokya, Bjuna, Kala, Greyhounds, Pepsidisko, Mahalia, Sagarol, Sweetboy and many more.

In between sets, there will be screenings of short films by Khavn de la Cruz, Ryan Oribina, John Torres.

Slideshows by veteran and young photographers like Leo Lanuang, Vi Villaflores, Pocholo Pineda, John Bencan, Lotsamatilla and more will be on 10 large-format tarpaulins around the concert area and onscreen as well.

The poetry of National Artist Virgilio Almario and of young poets like Kris Lacuba will also be featured.

Visual artists will paint a mural on the spot while the concert goes on.

Everyone is encouraged to wear a white

(ETTG 01)

ROCK ED founder Gang Badoy and family

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How you feel about the elections

By Gang Badoy
INQ7 Contributor

ALL ELECTIONS. YOU'VE SEEN AND heard them all, you say. And you must be tired.

My colleague, Lourd de Veyra (of the band Radioactive Sago Project) and I recently did a survey on reactions of young people to the upcoming elections. We did this through "Rock Ed Radio," a weekly unto-civic talk show that we host over at the home of MO Rock, NU 107 FM.

Our respondents were listeners aged 18-35. They didn't realize that while they raised us to us, we were tuned in to them, too.

Here are the most popular reactions to the coming election:

1. "It's just a popularity contest. Only the funniest mind achieves. The ugly ones lose."

While that may be true, it is interesting to note that there are strategically good-looking, artsy-craftsy candidates who are losing fake celebrities but are not quite making it to the magic list. And many who are not good looking at all (but make it, at least on the surveys).

Does that say something to us? Perhaps. The survey we took reflected this response. Many young voters now are not convinced by the status quo. They know there is much to be said about "running for a role" and that being a fantastic actor would not automatically make for an effective lawmaker. They're looking for integrity, experience, expertise and wit, too.

Several said they want to see non-wealthy politicians hold office because they would understand the general plight compared to the usual public official who is part of the economic elite. But many more expressed the fear that less affluent officials would be more prone to stealing the millions. (There's an oversupply in that field, you know. We've seen rich ones get caps as well.)

If it's a popularity rib, then now that is one thing, agreed many. Maybe we haven't demanded enough from our candidates to spit out concrete platforms. Blueprints of programs and plans have to be part of their campaign ideas. We as voters should require platforms before taxpayers and corporate stroke-on posters.

I know this is elementary, but it cannot be said enough, so I'll say it again. Demand platforms from your candidates.

2. "Public office is a family affair. It's the same last names, just the juniors and the daughters of the same-old families. Are they any different?"

Good observation, though it doesn't take that much brainpower to notice this. According to www.pcij.org ("Three Political Dynasties" by Julio Teehankee), there are approximately 160 families who have ruled the Philippines since the Spanish era. Two of these family members have control of congress and they seem to a significant percentage of the state and women who have been elected to the national lawmaking body from 1907-2004.

Again, the respondents in our survey had mixed reactions to this. Majority of the respondents said that political dynasties provide them a big to their last names, ride on the kick, or worse, the notoriety of their forebears to win in the coming polls. But they are not necessarily better, smarter or more equipped. In fact, many of the young voters think that "supply-side-ing any more side."

Approximately 20 percent of the respondents said this sets okay because the business of legislation is best assigned to someone whose family has become familiar with the task. If you grew up in a family of lawmakers, maybe it makes you also a-to work.

Some others said it didn't matter to them; if people are good in the job, why persecute them just because they are sons and daughters of so and so? If they can do the best name up in the efficacy of the people's lives, then why not? (Making TV ad, walang trabo pagle, walang pambili-o Vallet-o bagkis, pero darating-kasi-ilagang susunog.

3. "The battle of branding a candidate during campaigns is taken too far. It's Hamer vs Enrique vs Kuya."

In advertising, to campaigning of this campaign time is to have the candidate's name remembered. Recall is all important.

I've had the opportunity of seeing twice in my life, and I must admit I just swore Jaime Zamora must have handler to use. In fact, the first time I voted, I didn't prepare at all. A ghastly mistake. I regret it every now.

Please do not make this mistake. Study the candidates. Read about them. Find more than one source of the news. There are always several angles to a story so there are with a person. If there are debates on TV, watch them! Listen to the candidates talk. Ask yourself what you like about a person's candidacy platforms. Is he or she an advocate of causes that are yours as well? If yes, then go! If the candidate has a scheduled appearance in your university or barangay, take them out to ask them questions.

It's no different from checking out that bottle of shampoo you're buying from the supermarket. Read the label, sniff the contents, check out the ingredients. The bar may, of course, not have the chance to test the product before buying. When it comes to elections, it's a candidate has been bought before and he or she proved to be a lousy cleaner, then don't buy him or her again.

4. "We've had elections before. I haven't seen any changes. I'm not even sure if our elections are clean! We still have the 2004 questions hanging over our heads and here we are again. How do they expect us to participate?"

It is easier to throw in the towel and walk away. We all know that. It is also very justifiable to distrust a political exercise when we think it's a useless, pointless exercise.

Many of us find ourselves right smack in that frame of mind today. But, you see, every day the country begs you for demonstrations of hope. The polls definitely fall under that category. It's justifiable to be jaded sometimes, but the bigger doom of our country has not in self-serving politicians or the so-called civil-disobedient we are up against, but the resentment of young people.

Let's choose the possibility of frustration over indifference for now. Let's frustrate the cynics. Voting is not the only thing we can do during these elections.

Rock Ed volunteers have helped train the phone lines of Galaxy Hadalan, an election information hotline set up by the Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan at the Ateneo de Manila University. Dial 181.49 from any PLDT phone for free short text-related information. We can report electoral violations to the Comelec. We can join and support advocacy that organize poll watching. We can engage in intelligent conversation each female and compare our lists. Listen to other people's opinions on candidates you aren't familiar with and share what you know, too. Visit www.comelec.gov.ph. Let's try to "rage against the dying light."

5. "I didn't bother to register because I didn't see a point. What's okay, I'm just one vote anyway."

Of course your vote counts. This is your time. This is our time. Whatever it is you have to say about things that matter (like these elections), you must be heard somehow. I know this is why you blog, chat, text or Multiply, why you have many accounts in Friendster or Multiply. You believe you have something to share and say to the world through photos of your life and your daily posts.

It's like voting. It's a clear and direct statement about your hopes for the country as do it well. You're doing as we are armed with the ballot. Ignorance votes wisely and to guard our ballots, we're making it harder for the shady ones to prevail.

The author is the founder and executive director of Rock Ed Philippines and lectures on media education at the Ateneo Communication Multi-Media Training Center at the Ateneo de Manila University. She co-hosts "Rock Ed Radio" with Lourd de Veyra on NU107, the show airs every Sunday at 6 p.m.

E-mail her at gangdelarosa@philippines.org

THE MANY faces and phases of Rock Ed's anti-apathy campaign

Rock Ed Radio on NU 107 finds out how young people see the upcoming polls

Let's rally

From page D1

date, his token will be sold, but those interested to attend must present a valid ID and either one of these two things: wear a Rock Ed T-shirt (bought from the T-Shirt Project store or any Branded/Spunk outlet) or a printout of the campaign poster from download in front www.rockedphilippines.org or www.rockedradio.com.

The concert is organized by Rock Ed Philippines (Watch) together with the Commission on Higher Education, Red Horse (Serra Strong Boy, Globe and Frontgate Boost Events Group.

Other collaborators are the National Youth Commission, Simbahang Lingkod Bayan, Team Manila Graphic Design Group, Analog Soul, Rimate, MOR, Starworld TV and Bar's magazine.

A show of numbers will manifest the desire of young Filipinos for clean and honest elections. It confronts the nation politically and economically we have to start inside us. This transformation cannot be done by a concert, I know. We know that education for consolidation of a national, duly-elected government and simple diligence can usher the desired change—but we have to start somewhere.

So let's take this concert as a figurative shouting of our throats labels, shield before we speak loud and clear. Let your voice be heard.

—Gang Badoy

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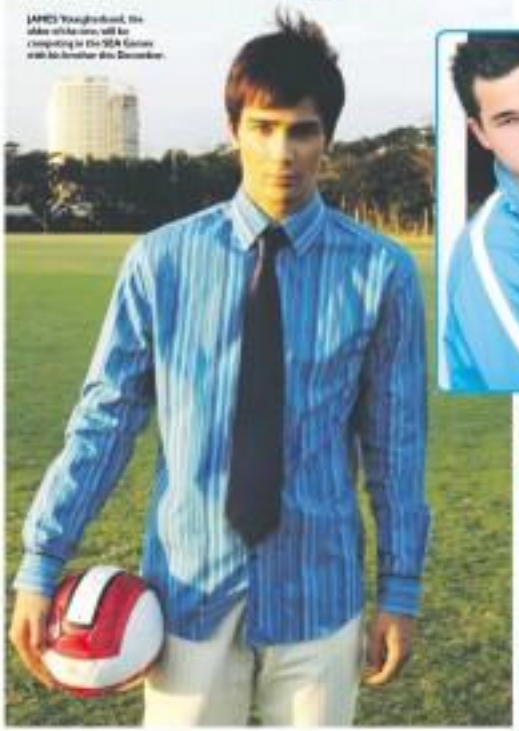
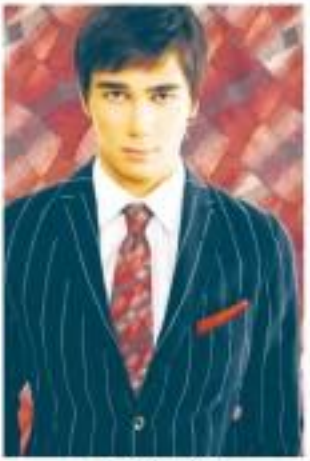


JAMES Younghusband, the elder of the two, will be competing in the SEA Games with his brother this December.

PHIL Younghusband is on his way to superstardom.



THE YOUNGHUSBAND brothers are hot on and off the field.

2BU! FAN FILES

Getting a kick out of these boys

By Nilou Mark M. Sabio
2BU! Correspondent

BOTH FILIPINO BROTHERS PHIL and James Younghusband are set to become the next big names in our pop culture landscape.

Apart from a flourishing career with the English Premier League Champions, Chelsea FC, which just renewed him, Phil is known to be the most valuable striker of the Philippine Football Federation Men's Under-23 national team.

Older brother James—who will be competing in the SEA Games this December with his brother—was also recently handpicked by premiere models brand Armando Cortez as celebrity endorser and wayfloog he the country's newest pin-boy-idol.

As fly-by-night, I discovered that these two fashion babes have a great following from England to the Philippines.

For magpie day, I actually met Phil, a journalist friend of mine dropped me to an interview she was doing, and I didn't know that her subject was Phil. Imagine how pleasantly shocked I was to see someone whose MySpace profile I had visited every day I was so stir struck that I couldn't even see.

And then something else happened. Phil's publicist asked to create his portfolio. I volunteered to help since she was having a hard time looking for a crew at such short notice. By the end of the day, I was able to not only help Phil choose clothes for his shoot, I was also able to refer his hair stylist, the men's room—something I know a lot of Pinoy girls and gay guys would die for!

Until now I can't believe how lucky I was that day.

Phil is a star, and it won't take long before he becomes a superstar. He is cool, confident and charming. And he's great at other hobbies, of course. He's such a great football player. But he has caught the eyes of LA Galaxy, which David Beckham plays for. Imagine a half Filipino playing alongside Beckham!

And last week, I got even luckier when Phil's publicist invited me to shoot the older brother, who is no less cut out for the camera.

Once again, I was in shock. It was definitely déjà vu for me, going into a room and discovering a pleasant surprise. But this time was different. I had formed no biases already, so I made the most out of every minute. I spent with James, who is just as sweet to me, calm, collected, mature and sophisticated at 23.

I didn't have any particular concerns discussed with James, but we were able to talk about a lot of things: his hobbies, his future plans, his expectations and, of course, football. The sport remains on the top of this brother's list, but in case he gets tired of the sport, I'm sure he can earn a living by being crowned in this country.

He's got the height and frame for runway shows, the good looks for print ads and the magnetic appeal for TVCs. He wonder Armando Cortez flew him here, with several magazines shooting him every day of his week-long visit.

I may not be the biggest Younghusband fan out there, but somebody up there loves me enough to gift me with some precious time with two dashing, talented and extremely interesting brothers that I have come to be super-fond of in such a short span of time.

Until now, I wonder why I get chosen from among all the Younghusband fanatics out there. All I know is that I am now a football fanatic, thanks to the Younghusband brothers, and promising the sport in this basketball-crazy country has suddenly become my mission.

Share your own fan files by e-mailing it_2bu@inquirer.com.ph.

E-mail the author at mark.sabio_2bu@yahoo.com

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WESTERN UNION

Pooches in paradise

By Paolo Lorenzana
Contributor

IT'S ALMOST AS IF ALL DOGS had gone to heaven—heaven being an expansive white beach with enough room to leave paw prints in the sand.

While the hipster island of Boracay is famous for its sunsets, the summer of shoulder emancipation and hard partying for its denizens, it's only natural that our beloved dogs would get some action as well, courtesy of the recent Pureza Alpo's Dog Fair and Frisbee Challenge.

At Dalaguete Plaza in Station 2, the party began under the morning sun with a lot of furry sniffing, leg-humping and tail-wagging which seemed to clear the cobwebs and

GONE to swim

SERVICED Ribbon action

FEELING the heat influence

The recent Pureza Alpo's Dog Fair and Frisbee Challenge in Boracay shifted the celebrity spotlight to our furry friends

IT'S a dog-eat-dog world

evoked in displays of canine supremacy: a Chihuahua getting frisky with a bulldog, a chocolate Lab and Great Dane pow-pulling side by side in the oscillator waters and a dozen or so dogs in pocket-built getting pumped as bowls for the hottest chow and for the Frisbee challenge that would last off at like Judo' in the afternoon.

You'd think the dogs were oblivious considering the hefty serious chat gathered by the show to reassess the pooches hoping up and seizing enough Frisbees to win their massive the P10,000 grand prize. It was also a way to prove who'll munched on enough Alpo-2 in the morning.

Four of the Golden Retrievers dominated the event, dogs like Scarce, an American Cocker Spaniel flown in all the way from Manila by its master Jake Ramirez, was a certified hit with the crowd, proving that more than the cash prize, dogs were all about getting dogs a day out in the sun, and not-frantic chat much-needed human salves. Scarce well

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THE DIGESTIVE ENZYMES Protein and Bromelain allow the body to supply more of the enzymes used to digest the health-maintenance.

More than just a fiber supplement, Reliv FibRestore™ means a variety of added nutritional values for your body's benefit.

So what are you waiting for? Enjoy a delicious Reliv FibRestore™ drink today and feel good about giving your body the nutrition it needs to function at its very best.

reliv.

BLAKE Lewis

Bowled over by Blake, Lakisha, and Bon Jovi on 'American Idol'

ROCK NIGHT IS ONE OF THE most awaited themes in the world's "American Idol." Last week's show featured one of mainstream American rock and roll's most enduring artists, Bon Jovi, showing our Idols how to rock-a-la up for the stage.

After Wednesday night, it's my one mistake I'm mocking Blake Lewis' funky version of "You Give Love a Bad Name," while Lakisha Jones bared his soul/dance with a dramatic performance of "This Ain't a Love Song." Judges Randy Jackson and Paula gave them the thumbs up, and so did Jon Bon Jovi.

For their stories in the Top Finals 24-0 U.S. the judge panel, Angela Mabe Bryant, and Ryan Seacrest, Blake and Lakisha were special performances picked from four World and "American Idol." Congratulations, guys! To them, your prize, please call Cindy Lorenzo at 893-7472 to 75.

You see you are receiving prizes from the world's biggest singing competition! Catch "American Idol" tonight at 8 p.m. live via satellite (10 p.m. in provinces and 11:30 p.m.) on Star World, give us your name and contact details, comments on the Sunday performance, wishing song choice, audience impact, and every fashion in their sentences in less and e-mail us at ... would pleased you. The 8 Idols are almost here, people, don't know at the know show's an more fantastic you.

Here's what our winning top thought of last week's Bon Jovi Invasion:

Angela Santiago: Blake did so well with his rendition of "You Give Love A Bad Name." He was able to make it his own and not downsizing the song. I am disappointed that Jordin did not give her usual female-sulking performance, but I still believe she deserves to be in the finals.

Khah-Jeyan Kristin: Most of last Wednesday's performances of famous Bon Jovi songs were amazing! Phil was pretty good and the audiences enjoyed his performance very much, but their fears to top of mind had me be a bigger fan/idol's performance was to fantastic that it even prompted Simon to kiss his. The best performance of the night, of course, was Blake. The female-lover was the new fashionista and he really made the song sound more exciting. I loved it! Blake deserves to be the next American Idol.

Pia B Tolledo-Ko: It was a rocking Bon Jovi night and, yay, Lakisha is definitely back, redeeming herself with her golden pipes and powerful rendition of "This Ain't A Love Song." Blake's new hair color and big rock-n-roller "You Give Love A Bad Name" was very big and entertaining.

LAKISHA Jones

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ENTERTAINMENT

Edce Erwin C. Velarde

Chris, Phil: We knew it

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

By Kathryn Faima Reyes

LAST WEEK, CHRIS RICHARDSON AND Phil Stacey were sent home from "American Idol," the reality TV show that continues to rule the ratings in America.

"Phil and I were off home we were going home," Chris, the 25-year-old singer from Chesapeake, Virginia told media fans from around the world in a recent conference

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Diving, Tubbataha Reef, Palawan
It really is paradise! This reef is a national treasure you can come back to again and again.

White Water Rafting, Cagayan Valley
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Sailing, Taal Lake
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Surfers fly from other countries to ride these waves. Why let them have all the fun?

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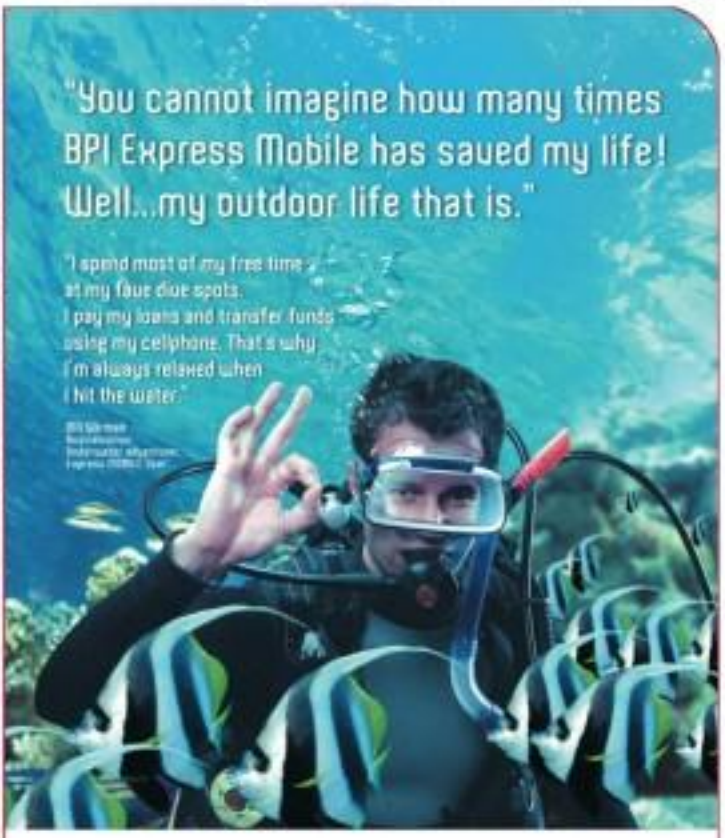

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'Rounin' quickly runs out of steam

THE FIRST COUPLE OF TELEvents of ABS-CBN's "Rounin" were impressive for their big, action scenes, visuals, effects and production values. Our spectator expectations followed whether, and we had ourselves expectations

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

many standard flourishes, but few surprises.

Despite this, we told ourselves that we could put up with the standard story line, because the show's plot hooks were good enough to keep us interested.

Unfortunately, after making a good first impression, "Rounin"

A SCENE from "Rounin"

has turned to go slow and low. Acting not on much on action and fight scenes, with their attendant visual effects, but on the development of its story about the next generation of Rounin, made up of characters played by Luis Manzano, Angelica Panganiban and Richard Yap.

The series may be sci-fi, but its current story is predictable melodrama and corkboard, with its young leads figuring in standard conflicts like a love triangle and bitter competition for succession to the fighting-sorcerer' top post.

Even the fight scenes are conventionally tradeat in execution. The young warriors are supposed to be imbued with special powers, but they spend so much time in traditional martial arts scenes and swordplay, before they finally resort to these supposed powers.

We hope that the series can turn dynamic again, with more of the compelling visualizations that made its first few episodes so interesting and involving.

On points of performance, the youthful cast is limited by the predictable plot and character development. As a result, none of the time they simply go through the Bicolano motions, on locations already mastered.

We must that, as the series picks up steam, as will its leads' performers, as viewers can become genuinely involved in them.

We need this to happen, because local TV screams should flare with genuine excitement and empathy which are difficult to find in the rehashed TV-like plots that pass for new situations these days. We hope that "Rounin" will turn out to be the exciting exception to the dumbdown rule.

Feedback

From Manuel E. Onabia of Quezon City: "I think you should spend more time listening to the radio, because the performance there is even worse than what we see on TV.

"Many times, I hear radio announcers cracking gross jokes. They also make comments on the news obviously without much thinking. And some of these shameelessly pronounce themselves and their relatives. These people should be reminded that they are on the air to serve the public, not to feather their own nests.

"Does the Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster ng Pilipinas adequately regulate their stations' operations? Or the customers are boss, after all?"

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G4	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 LUCKY YOU	3 SPIDER-MAN 3			
	4 PERFECT STRANGERS	5 THE CONDEMNED	6 SPIDER-MAN 3	7 20 WEEKS LATER		
GB1	1 LUCKY YOU	2 SPIDER-MAN 3				
GB3	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 SPIDER-MAN 3				
	3 20 WEEKS LATER	4 LUCKY YOU	5 SPIDER-MAN 3			
ATC	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 SPIDER-MAN 3				
	3 LUCKY YOU	4 THE CONDEMNED	5 20 WEEKS LATER			
ACC	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 SPIDER-MAN 3	3	4 GREY MATTERS		
M2	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 LUCKY YOU				
	3 20 WEEKS LATER	4 THE CONDEMNED	5 SPIDER-MAN 3			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA | TOWN
Laguna Days — May 7 to 13, 2007
One Shot Encounter w/ NIGEL BARKER — May 10, 2007 - 6PM
AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET!
Heroika Sampling Booth at Powwow — May 11 & 12, 2007
Strawberry Shortcake & Friends: The Big Berry Bake Off — May 12 to 13, 2007

Greenbelt — One Shot Encounter w/ NIGEL BARKER — May 10, 2007 - 7PM - Greenbelt 3 Park
Christagilis — OBERTURE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & corporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007. For bookings, pls. call 750-7462 or 750-2871
Ayala Museum — CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Treasures from the Bernard Luk Shoshan Collection — Ongoing until May 27, 2007

Congratulations to the Summer Trippin' at Singapore winners!
•Greenbelt — Margarita G. Inocencio
•Glorietta — Rina Santarin
•Alabang Town Center Winner — Alan Fuentespina
•Market! Market! Winner — Anne B. Casado
Summer Trippin' at Singapore!

A ONE SHOT ENCOUNTER WITH NIGEL BARKER
Greenbelt 3 Park — May 10 • 7pm
Alabang Town Center Activity Center — May 11 • 6pm

Chris, Phil: We knew it

From page E1

said. "When Ryan [Seacrest] called me and Blake [Lewis], I knew I was leaving."

Chris added that, while he was on stage with Blake, he noticed that the band had begun to set up and the guitar player had grabbed the 12-string guitar. He was the only using the previous (performance) night with a 12-string guitar.

Phil, who is with the US Navy, said he was agreeable to getting the best payback at this point, after two good weeks.

"I wanted to win," Phil said. "[But] I'm glad to leave on a high note."

Left to sing is out for the coveted title were are Melinda Doolittle, LaKisha Jones, Jacinta Sparks and Blake Lewis.

Was there a specific performance where the judges' comments surprised you?

PHIL: My big surprise came on country week. I'm certainly more in my comfort zone in country music. But I'd grown to accustomed to getting critical feedback that when Randy was like, "Dude, you were good this week"! I was like, "Really?"

CHRIS: I remember back to the earliest rounds, I didn't think "The Look to the Pink" would roll over too well with the judges. I went on there skeptical. I was like, "I wonder if they'd like something different?" and I did it and they seemed to really love it.

We know that Phil is married. Chris, you're charming, and you're a good-looking guy. Are you single, are you seeing anyone?

CHRIS: I just got out of a three-and-a-half year relationship back home. That's about it. All of the other women ... all of that stuff were just rumors. I'm pretty much single, so it will [expletive] be fun that I'm [finally] out of a relationship.

What do you think is the best runner now?

PHIL: The best people he's been involved on couple. I think Blake is the most original contestant ever on "American Idol." He just [swung] it this week with Bon Jovi. It was incredible. Melinda is possibly the greatest singer I've ever heard on the show. LaKisha sings with so much passion, it's hard to listen to her and not get chills. And Jordin has got a range that lasts for days—her upper notes have so much power. I think it's anybody's ball game at this point.

CHRIS: I feel the same same way.

Phil, is it possible that you may make the time because you have to get back to your job in the Navy?

PHIL: My primary responsibility is in the United States Navy. They've been 100 percent flexible with me with "American Idol." The last time that I spoke with my commanding officer, things looked very promising (as far as) going on the tour. It would break my heart to not be able to go.

What was your best decision as a top 12 contestant?

PHIL: To go into it with a positive outlook and be happy, and entertain! I have blessed I was to be there to begin with. I think a lot of people started liking me more as a person when they saw that.

PHIL: Leaning on a highscore

CHRIS: Plans songs to sing

Chris, who among the judges did you find most supportive?

CHRIS: I would have to say Randy. He always seemed to dig my music, even on bad nights. So always saw something positive. Paula would just always have something uplifting to say.

What would you like to sing on the tour?

CHRIS: I haven't thought that far ahead. I've a lot of songs I wanna sing and I've got to figure out which would best suit the style of music that I'll be coming out with on my album.

Phil, why the bald look? Why did that work for you ultimately?

PHIL: I think it worked for me because it ... wasn't something that anybody else had this season.

Chris, how did you feel about the producers pitching you directly against Blake when you're such good friends?

CHRIS: They've got to make a good television show. They've some good talent and they know what will get people interested.

What were you and Blake saying to each other while you waited?

CHRIS: We were singing a song that we wrote and that we used to laugh and joke about. I was also telling him to go ahead and sit down because I knew he was crying.

How did you and Blake become so close?

CHRIS: It started in Hollywood week. It was just our of those things—you pair out of stick with somebody. Me and Blake had a lot in common ... music tastes and styles, personality traits ... we just bonded.

Do you have any advice for future "Idol" contestants?

CHRIS: Just be yourself. Don't settle for what they say you should do. If you try to change because these people tell you to, then you're fooling yourself.

PHIL: Go see three and sing songs that you can have fun with, and just be yourself. Pick songs that you already know.

"American Idol" airs on Star World every Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. live on satellite, 8 p.m. prime time, and 11:30 p.m. replay.

British rocker held for drugs

DID YOU KNOW...

LONDON—British rock star Pete Doherty, former of supermodel Kate Moss, was arrested on Saturday night on suspicion of possessing "Class A" banned drugs. The Sun tabloid reported.

A police spokesperson, who declined to confirm what her Doherty, 28, was linked arrested, said: "At 12:00 hours (11:00 GMT) on the 5th (of May), police stopped a vehicle on Kensington High Street.

"A 28-year-old male driver was arrested on suspicion of possession of a class A drug. He now taken to a west London police station, and later bailed to return to June pending further inquiries."

The Sun said the troubled Babyshambles frontman was held in the police station overnight. AFP

ROUNDUP

'Sining Giving'

THE MEDIAM Broadcasting Network weekly program "Sining Giving Experience ng Inspirasyon" is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Television Program in Cultures and the Arts from the Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Scholarship Foundation Inc.

The program, co-produced by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Department of Education, was cited for its promotion of nationalism through a creative and resourceful medium.

It airs live on RBN 4 every Sunday, 4 to 6 p.m., with a replay at 12 midnight.

Fly to LA

ETC gives viewers a chance to fly to Los Angeles to visit the set of "E Street" and "Daily 10," programs that feature celebrity gossip and tomorrow-dirt.

Viewers may simply watch the shows from Tuesday to Saturday, 8 p.m., to 10 p.m., wait for the question during gaps and text their answers to 2720 (for Smart and Sun subscribers).

Prizes include gift certificates from The Bellevue Manila, CDs from MCA Music Inc. and premiere seats from the show.

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'Kaleldo' wows critics in Korea

By Marinel R. Cruz

BRILLANTE MENDOZA

BRILLANTE MENDOZA'S "KALEldo (Animal Heart)" won the critics' prize from the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (Netpac) at the recently concluded Jeonju International Film Festival (JIFF) in Korea.

The award is given to the best Asian film screened in JIFF by the Netpac Organization committee, according to newsmag.jtbc.co.kr, the festival website.

"KALEldo"—Kapampangan for summer—was shot entirely in Guagua, Pampanga a decade after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. It tells of the lives of mountaineer Mang Isdo (Johnny Delgado) and his three daughters (Angel Aquino, Juliana Palermo and Glaiza De Castro).

The JIFF, which features only full, independent and art films, has been held annually in South Korea since 2000.

The press of Mendoza's victory was announced by Filipino critic Noel Vera, one of three jury members in the festival's Indie Vision section, on his website www.noelvera.blogspot.com.

"I heard the news from my colleagues while I was shooting my new film 'Tyrador.' I've got invited Korean word from the festival organizers," Mendoza told Inquirer Entertainment on Monday. "I don't realize films to win awards. I just work on what interests me. I'm glad the jury appreciated what I did on 'Kaleldo.'"

Mendoza added that the jury must have liked "how the (film mirrored Filipino culture."

Penning the three-member Netpac jury were Gulnur Abdurova, an director of Eurasian International Film Festival and director of foundation United Asia Film Center since 2004; Yu Ji-na, film critic, professor of the Department of Film and Digital Media at Sungkyul University and chief director of Cinematic Research Society in Morning Image (CORE); and Ashley Rawlins-Hudson, board member and Pacific jury coordinator and founder of the Asian Film Service Links.

"Kaleldo" has subsequent to film festivals in Rome, Vienna, Busan and Cairo. Mendoza's previous film "Slingshot" has also won honors in foreign festivals.

Later this month, his "Foster Child," produced by Jerba Films, to be only Filipino full-length feature that will be shown in the 16-movie's Pomegrik section of the Cannes International Film Festival.

OPENING THIS WEEK

Manoro: The Anta Teacher
Mavic Jocelyn Alfonso, Edgar Allwyn Bienvenido Ballesteros Mendoza

The manoro or teacher in the title is Jocelyn Alfonso, an area girl who leads her tribal elders how to read and write in preparation for a presidential election. This digital movie bagged the Cinemalaya Films at the 24th Toronto International Film Festival in Tuna, B.C. It also won Best Director and Picture at the Digital Label 63 of the Cinemalaya Film. Jose Javier Reyes. It was the country's entry at the Festival of Three Continents in Nantes, France. Serving for Screen of Cinema, Dan Muller, Cologne-based film critic, commends "Mendoza's suspenseless sense of precision, saying "Kita Ilalim of the heavens cells it "compelling ... a welcome addition to ethnic/anti-cinema." Jim Inarvey in IndieWire Robinson Gallotta

Lucky You
Mary Eve Bana, Ehren Barrymore, Robert Duvall, Jean Smart, Debra Messing

Described as a "marathon romantic-drama," this romance set at Las Vegas pairs a poker hotshot (Bana) with a sassy lounge singer (Barrymore). Gene Seymour of Newsday says it is "spoon with a little sugar" that, by itself, is one of the best short films you'll ever see ... [but] it's to sustain Hollywood's Schenckhausen of Schenckhausen Brooks Hanks & Co. "spoon with a little bit of Hollywood" up-to-the-minute. Duvall, who's a dedicated poker aficionado ... [but] a decent movie just wasn't in the cards." Richard Schickel of Time magazine commends that it "has the best opening sequence ... smart, funny ... [but] the rest isn't quite as special as the beginning. It is more mid-term than cross-training."

Fracture
Marie Anthony Hopkins, Ryan Gosling, David Strathairn, Rosamund Pike, Billy Burke

Original Screenplay by Gregory Hoblit

A rich narcissistic engineer (Hopkins) is pressed to get away with the murder of his wife. It is up to an ambitious young lawyer (Gosling) to prove that the unsuspecting old man is guilty. Lou Lumenick of New York Post describes it as "Hannibal Lecter" the Classic and Two Sons ... It's broke no new ground, but with the two [lead men], you'll never be bored." Justin Chang of Variety reports that it's "an elegantly framed battle of wits ... in the crushing Ryal Dallas that can't help but trace the exquisitely to-

Kirsten doesn't mind being on Spidey's web again

From page E4

time, I met Tobey and I met for the movie. I remember wanting so badly to be in this film. I've [run into] so many opportunities because of Spider-Man."

Dunst, who starred in three hits now at age 24 doing television commercials, guessed out that she has matured and grown up with "Spider-Man." She even drew 16 videos she did for the Spidey movie.

"We all know things change," said Dunst, who turned 25 on April 30. "That's reflected in the films, and you're definitely sure we all grow up a little bit."

Singing part

Dunst got to the ring in "Spider-Man 3," just as she did in the films "The Cat's Meow," "Bring It On" and "Marie Antoinette."

"Luckily I got to get around the song as I just had to lip-synch," the actress said. "But that was the first day of work—walking down the ramp thing ... it was my song I didn't rehearse or have any idea what I was going to be like. So to see look down the steps and sing in high heels and a dress—as a woman, you understand how hard that was!"

If Dunkin Globe continue for her performance in "Interview with the Vampire," Kirsten revealed that she cost her word her own dress: her $2-foot actress and that there were factored in. "But while I was doing the second film, I definitely was not thinking of the third."

She also confirmed she enjoyed working with Tobey again. They were once an item off-screen.

"After working on three movies with him, we already know each other very

well," she explained. "He is very humorous like and I am very emotional. We complement each other. We know what buttons to push ... Our relationship has matured and everything that we feel about each other is in the movie."

They are now the best of friends, Kirsten said.

Proud dad

Tobey is now the proud father of a baby girl with his fiancée, Jennifer Meyers. Kirsten is being linked to the redlight front man Johnny Borrell. The rocker has spoken publicly about his relationship with Kirsten and described her as "a great girl."

Kirsten credited director Sam Raimi for "making us all feel comfortable on the set by explaining every scene to us. I did not go to acting school so I just discover things by myself and learn a lot from my director."

Making things interesting in the New Yorker Parker-MJ Harry Osborn (Dunst) love triangle is the appearance of Gwen Stacy, Peter Parker's former flame and first love Bryce Dallas Howard ("The Village"), daughter of director Ron Howard, taken on the role of the beautiful blonde who has a crush on Spider-Man and who gets a transformation from hero.

On the other hand, Gwen is the object of desire of photographer Eddie Brock (Topher Grace, who also becomes the villain Venom), who contributes the casual friendliness for romance in interest.

As will Kirsten sign up for "Spider-Man 4"?

"We'll see. If there's a good story to tell and [has] the director and Tobey's on board, I will be there."

Opening This Week

From page E4

The Condemned

Stars: Stone Cold Steve Austin, Vinnie Jones, Robert Hoss

Directed by: Scott Wiper

A wealthy man (Hoss) kidnaps 10 death-row convicts and forces them to play a "survival" type game in which they must kill each other to win. Elizabeth Weitzman of New York Daily News complains that it's a "cheap sophisticated flick ... It's not only morally bankrupt, [it] escapes the bottom of the entertainment barrel." John F. Thompson of LA Weekly says: "It's no surprise that late in all the movie's moral-toting about the dangers of violent entertainment it sits contemporary on the morality of the death penalty itself." Michael Wilmington of Chicago Tribune notes: "[The] first starring role of wrestling superstar Austin is a cool misfire. It doesn't have the courage of its own bad taste."

28 Weeks Later

Stars: Rose Byrne, Robert Carlyle, Jeremy Renner, Imogen Poots

Directed by: Juan Carlos Fresnadillo

Reconstruction begins six months after Great Britain is declared uninhabitable. But the rage virus, which turns people into the living dead, manifests itself again via an unlikely carrier. Rich Cline of Shadowand.com notes that this sequel to "28 days Later" "avoids the original's central flaw ... [and] plays on our deepest fears as it continually shifts gears." Louise Keller of Urbancinefile.com observes that "the sequel [has] more blood and gutter than the original ... The film's effects are considerable ... A competently made genre film." Andrew Kasch of Dailycontrol.com asserts that it's "more epic, tense and character-driven than its predecessor ... [It] exceeds into much fresher territory."

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1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 THE CONDEMNED
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 WILD HOGS
8 28 WEEKS LATER

NOVALICHES

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 28 WEEKS LATER
5 THE CONDEMNED
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

PIONEER

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 LUCKY YOU
3 THE CONDEMNED
4 28 WEEKS LATER

STA. ROSA

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SUNSHINE
3 SHOOTER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 THE CHANTING

LIPA

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 NORBIT
3 SUNSHINE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 THE LAST MIMZY

DASMARINAS

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 FIREHOUSE DOG
3 SHOOTER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 NORBIT

ANGELES

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHOOTER
3 THE LAST MIMZY
4 THE CHANTING

IMUS

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SHOOTER
4 FIREHOUSE DOG
5 PAN'S LABYRINTH
6 RUMBLEBOY

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1 SHOOTER
2 THE LAST MIMZY
3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
4 THE CHANTING
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

BACOLOD

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 RESERVE
4 ROCKY BALBOA
5 THE REAPING
6 NORBIT

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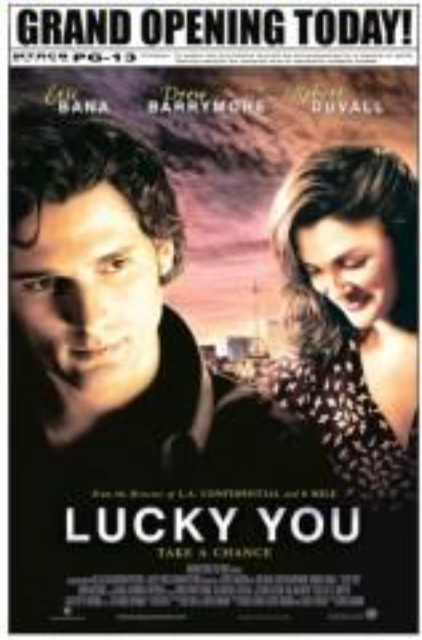
Kirsten doesn't mind being on Spidey's web again



By Janet Susan B. Hapalla
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—A beaming Kirsten Dunst, dimples showing, walked into the room wearing a lovely white sleeveless dress with a low neckline.

She could get married in that dress, we thought.

Kirsten was obviously in the mood to coax her colleagues Tobey Maguire, James Franco and Thomas Haden Church, who were also present during the press conference.

Tobey, Kirsten and James are reunited in "Spider-Man 3," the latest in the blockbuster franchise. Thomas ("Sideways") joins the original cast as Flint Marko, the guy who, it turns out, killed Peter Parker's uncle, and who turns into one of Spidey's opponents, Sandman.

Kirsten, whom we last saw in Sofia Coppola's "Marie Antoinette" and Cameron Crowe's "Elizabethtown," reacted with enthusiasm to the rolled of her character, Mary Jane Watson.

Did she have any idea that the web-slinger movie would change her life?

"No I didn't," Kirsten replied. "All I knew is that when I was in Germany doing another another project of the

KIRSTEN 13

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